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Attention to legal matters a must for Baptist churches

By Paul Griffin Jones II

Increasingly, churches are having to face the same legal issues of concern as modern business.

The reality of lawsuits, charges of financial and personal misconduct, employment concerns, and other expanding areas of liability demand that churches review their legal status, the nature of their protection against lawsuits, and their internal policies regarding actions of staff and membership.

Numerous issues face churches in the last decade of the twentieth century.

Incorporation

Few choices are without cost. In weighing the desirability of incorporation, all factors should be considered.

One advantage is that incorporation can limit financial liability of "owners" and members of non-profit organizations. Normally, without incorporation, all the members of the body share a personal liability for debts and other liabilities.

Business debts, judgments against the body, fines, etc. would normally be liabilities of all the individuals involved. In fact, in some jurisdictions, an organization does not legally exist unless incorporated.

Incorporation (literally, "making a new body") creates a new legal "person"—the organization. This new "person" is liable for debts and judgments, while the directors and members are generally not liable personally.

Incorporation tends to facilitate relationships with agencies and businesses that require associations of churches and individual churches be incorporated. Incorporation also assures the protection of the legal name of the body, since statutes generally bar the use of a name that is not unique.

Furthermore, incorporation can assure perpetual legal existence since the entity remains even though individuals are constantly changing.

There seem to be few fundamental disadvantages to incorporation. The act is reversible. It is not complex. It is flexible in the sense that the statutes permit wide free-

dom for the non-profit corporation to develop its own particular administrative structure.

The requirements under present state statutes are minimal with regard to churches; however, some have been concerned that the very existence of any relationship with government may create a problem. The reality is that any church with property or vehicles or employees is in some respect already under state and federal law.

Most Christians believe that the law is not an institution contrary to God's will for His creation, and point to the passage on civil authority in Romans 13:1-7.

Moreover, the act of incorporation merely creates an artificial legal entity that is quite distinct from the spiritual character of the church. Only the corporation as an artificial entity is in any sense tied to the state, and not the members or the church in any spiritual sense.

Some people point to the possibility of government regulation and forget the church, incorporated or not, is subject to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Postal Service, State Tax Commission, Department of Public Safety (if possessing a vehicle), and other municipal, county, state, and federal agencies.

Churches are generally able to perform their own operations free from intrusive regulations, and court decisions have created significant barriers to government intrusion into the internal affairs of the church.

The actual cost of incorporation is minimal, currently \$50. It is possible that other costs, such as attorney fees, could be incurred should the church choose to hire legal counsel to assist them in the process. This decision resides solely with the church.

Finally, incorporation does not require any deviation from the pattern of government with which Baptist churches are famil-

iar. The church is required to have a constitution and by-laws, but the state leaves the basic content of these documents to the discretion of the church.

Incorporation should not require any changes in the functions of deacons, trustees, or church members.

Tax exempt status

Tax exempt status and non-profit corporate status are different issues. Whether incorporated or not, an organization must be non-profit to be tax exempt and must comply with specific limitations.

The issue of tax exemption for churches and other religious organizations is both controversial and urgent today. The questionable practices of some "religious" bodies seeking exemption, the increasing number of non-profit organizations seeking exemptions, and a search for new tax revenue are resulting in clashes that cut to the heart of the relationship of church and state.

Churches and most charitable groups fall under Internal Revenue Code (IRC), Section 501(c)(3). Falling within Section 501(c)(3) for tax purposes is a privilege in at least two aspects.

First, the recognition exempts churches from paying federal income taxes on the contributions they receive. Secondly, donors to such organizations are permitted, within some limits, to deduct the amount of donations on personal income tax reports.

This second benefit is restricted to specific types of non-profits that benefit the public, such as charitable, religious, and educational non-profit organizations.

Thus when churches qualify for exempt status under Section 501(c)(3), they are not only exempt from income taxes on their income, but church contributors may deduct, within limits, their tithes and offerings in calculating their personal tax liabilities. The deductions also apply for estate

and gift tax purposes.

As always, specific tax questions should be addressed to a tax professional, certified public accountant, or an attorney familiar with tax law.

The recognition of church status has become more of an issue with the increased diversity of religious ministries. In *Peck v. Commissioner*, the court has ruled that all churches have religious purposes, but not every organization that has a religious purpose is a church.

A "14-Factor Test" is normally used to determine if an organization is a church:

- a distinct legal status
- a recognized creed or form of worship
- a definite and distinct church government
- a formal code of doctrine and discipline
- a distinct religious history
- a membership not associated with any other church or denomination
- an organization of ordained ministers
- some measure of ministerial training and selection
- a literature of its own
- established places of worship
- regular congregations
- regular worship services
- Sunday Schools for the instruction of the young
- schools for the preparation of ministers

There are two basic ways by which churches can obtain tax exempt status. First, there is the presumptive exempt status. Under the Internal Revenue Code, churches automatically and presumptively qualify as exempt 501(c)(3) organizations.

IRS regulations provide that churches, interchurch organizations of local churches, associations, conventions, and their "integrated auxiliaries" need not apply for tax exempt status. They are exempt by nature of their existence.

Secondly, churches may formally apply to the IRS and request an agency finding that the church is exempt under section 501(c)(3). When such recognition is made,

See CHURCH on page 8

Church and State



Part 1
of a series

Praying in America

GLENDAL, Calif. (EP) — Nearly 90% of Americans pray to God and 60% pray once or more each day, according to a recent survey by the Barna Research Group. More than 80% of respondents said prayer is a regular part of their lives.

The survey also reflected that women are more likely than men to pray (95% to 83%), and more likely to pray once or more each day (65% to 50%). Women are more certain that prayer makes a difference in their lives, while men tend to be hopeful but unsure that it does.

"Baby Boomers," aged 26-46, are less likely to consider prayer a regular part of their lives while "Baby Busters," the younger generation, have prayer habits more in line with the average American.

Almost all born-again Christians pray: 99%, compared to 83% of others in the survey. Nearly 75% of born-again Christians believe prayer makes a difference, compared to just 43% of others. Born-again Christians are also more likely to acknowledge God's attributes in prayer (84%); ask for forgiveness (86%); listen silently for God's answer (55%); make specific requests of God (69%); and give thanks to God (97%).

Uruguay most unchurched

PRINCETON, N.J. (EP) — Uruguay has the highest proportion of atheists and agnostics among 40,000 people in 19 nations recently surveyed by Gallup International. Pollsters found 7% of Uruguayans are atheist, 3% are agnostic, and 14% claim no religious preference.

Following Uruguay, countries with the highest percentages of atheists and agnostics are the U.S., Great Britain, and Bolivia, all with 4%. Philippines has the highest percentage of Christians (97%), while India and Turkey have the lowest (3% or less).



Statistics for the U.S. indicate that 82% of respondents identify themselves as Christians, including 56% Protestant, 25% Catholic, and 1% Orthodox. Judaism is claimed by 2% of Americans surveyed, and 5% responded "other."

Briefly...

Youth Day

DENVER, Colo. (EP) — Organizers of a World Youth Day in Denver on August 11-15, have refused to sign a city contract that includes a gay rights clause. Coloradans struck down gay rights ordinances in the last general election, but that action was suspended by judicial decree.

Grant is tops

NASHVILLE (EP) — Amy Grant's "Heart in Motion" album has been certified quadruple platinum. It has sold 4.5 million copies, an all-time high for an artist in the Christian market.

Desert water

EIN FESHCHA, Israel — An extraordinarily large quantity of well water was recently discovered north of the Dead Sea, which is the lowest elevation on earth. The discovery, considered an ecological phenomenon, is estimated as equal to 10% of annual Israeli water consumption. A \$30 million pipeline project is planned.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson

The heartbeat of our churches

If the "heartbeat of America" is an automobile, what is the heartbeat of Baptists? What drives us, fuels us, lights our fire, and rings our bell?

For most of our history, it has been missions. The SBC Inter-Agency Council reports on a survey of 1,400 Baptists, revealing the ranking of local church ministries. The importance of local ministries were 1) outreach, evangelism, witnessing; 2) family ministries; 3) prayer ministry; 4) training and Bible study; 5) ministries to groups within the church; 6) ministries to groups outside the church; and 7) home and foreign missions.

It's great to see these varied ministries rank high in importance. It's rather sad to see home and foreign missions come in last. There is much overlapping in some cases, such as the prayer ministry would include missions, etc.

You cannot fault anything on the list; each one is productive and helpful. A church involved in these seven ministries will hardly go astray and is to be commended. Admittedly the survey was a bit small and the manner of framing the questions often determines the results. It's still a good survey, but overall something appears to be missing. How do you measure

compassion? Is there a real passion for the harvest?

It would be interesting to study a comparison of our national foreign policy and foreign missions. If we cut back on aid for other nations, do we follow with a cutback on foreign missions? Is mission work the first thing to be cut when we are in a budget crunch? Probably not, but it would be worthy of study.

A church could go through the motion of conducting all seven ministries, and still something would be missing. We can do everything a church is to do and, "what lack we yet?"

We can be politically correct, orthodox to the bone, and yet be "clouds without water." If a son comes asking for bread, will you give him a stone? Most people come to church looking for warmth, not light. They are hungry for that loving, caring touch and we offer them the cold stone of orthodoxy. The tender sharing of a hymnbook may be remembered long after the sermon is forgotten. A tear can be more impressive than an anthem. "Behold, how they love one another" is the eyebrow-raiser rather than the last word on the last things.

Don't read this wrong. Doctrine

is important and we need it today. However, I would rather see a full congregation where love is, than to preach "great doctrines" to a handful of the faithful. People will hear and heed doctrine better where there is love. Now abideth orthodoxy, correct polity, and love, and the greatest of these....

Thankfully the apostle Paul, believing in doctrine and love, turned a double-barreled load on the congregation at Ephesus: "Be filled with the Spirit" and "be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you." Does it make us feel better to treat a Christian brother, for whom Christ died, in a shabby, unfair way?

Paul fires another barrage: "Walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with long-suffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." That attitude will "adorn the doctrine of God" and make a congregation a thousand times more attractive.

Would this was the heartbeat of Baptists. Let the day hasten when our vindictive swords are beaten into plowshares of concern for the things that concern the Father.

Guest opinion...

Reinventing the SBC: Carnal vs. Constructive Conservatism

By Russell H. Dilday

Part I

FORT WORTH, Texas — J.I. Packer, in *Power Religion*, a book released recently by Moody Press, joins 14 other conservative evangelical leaders in a timely warning against what they call "carnal conservatism."

The book critiques and offers better alternatives to such excesses as triumphalistic church growth strategies, authoritarian styles of pastoral leadership, the use of secular political methodology, the fanning of emotional fears by supposed conspiracy theories, the misappropriation of therapeutic psychology, and power evangelism (signs and wonders). The authors argue that these excesses have created a distorted evangelicalism which Packer and others label "carnal conservatism." It is unbiblical and dangerous, they claim.

In the light of this evangelical study, it is good to remember that through the years, Southwestern Seminary has tried to promote

what John Newport, retired vice president, has called, "constructive conservatism." Echoing a popular country-western song, Southwestern was conservative when conservative wasn't cool.

However, our brand of conservatism has avoided the rigid, legalistic, argumentative characteristics so often found in fundamentalism. We have tried (successfully, I believe) to avoid the pitfalls of "carnal conservatism" which, to some extent, has infected our convention as it has the evangelical world.

To be sure, there will be a future shape to the SBC, but who will be the architects of that future, and what will be the contours of the new shape? Those questions nudge us to consider Southwestern's role in helping to plant and nurture a "neo-baptist" movement, a reformed (not Reformed) Baptist denomination.

Of course, any restated edition of the SBC should closely resemble

the old, bringing forward and maintaining the best of our character, heritage, and identity, but in a vigorous new form enlivened by the Holy Spirit.

Now I must admit that some of us who once truly believed that the SBC was the best, maybe the ultimate expression of the New Testament pattern of cooperating church life, find it difficult to concede that out of the turmoil of these past dozen years an even better denomination could arise. But the intriguing possibility is there, and it offers hope and challenge in the midst of the vacuum.

Dilday is president of Southwestern Seminary.

THE NUMBER OF BELIEVERS IS GROWING AT A RATE OVER THREE TIMES FASTER THAN THE WORLD'S POPULATION: RICHMOND, Va. (EP) — In 1430 only 1% of the world's population was comprised of Bible-believing Christians. In 1993, one in 10 are believers. The number of believers is growing at a rate over three times faster than the world's population, according to the Lausanne Statistics Task Force, headed by mission researcher David Barrett. There are currently some 540 million Bible-believing Christians in the world, located in about 7 million congregations.

Honoring Praying Mothers



Mother's Day is May 9

Springtime in Dixie

All communities are lovely in the spring, but Natchez takes a back seat to no other. The azaleas, pansies, tulips, and foliage defy description. Sprinkle a few dozen antebellum homes among the greenery, and you have a rival to the hanging gardens of Babylon.

The mighty Mississippi, romantically a mile wide and a mile deep, taking the tears of the Delta to the sea, flows in Natchez's backyard. Huge barges with a "tote-that-bail-and-land-in-jail" look, ply the waters in majestic ease.

Twin bridges arch the main stream of mid-America from the bluff to the Vidalia, La., lowlands. Fertile fields are now filled with grazing cattle. Harnett T. Kane would have added another chapter to "Gone Are the Days" had he been there. You expect a wealthy planter in polished boots to ride up at any moment. If so, Dunleith would be the place to dismount. It has a "mounting block" near the front door, albeit, there was a 3-wheeler parked by it this day.

North a few miles is Cole's Creek where Richard Curtis Jr. organized the first Baptist church in Mississippi territory. The date was "October 1791."

Two hundred and two years later, the Mississippi Education Commission, under the chairmanship of Frank Harmon of Newton, had its spring meeting there. It was an optimistic meeting with good reports from all three colleges. Student enrollment is increasing, as is the number of students in church-related vocations. J.M. Wood, Jackson, reported that 228 "CRV" students received some aid from the Convention.

Bobby Douglas, First Church, Columbus, set the proper tone for the meeting as he spoke of the difficulty in Habakkuk's day and how faith triumphed over apparent difficulties: "Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation. The Lord God is my strength; He will make my feet like deer's feet, And He will make me walk on my high hills" (Hab. 3:18-19). — GH

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Editor.....Guy Henderson
Associate Editor.....William H. Perkins Jr.
Advertising/News writer.....Teresa Dickens
Editorial Associate.....Florence Larrimore
Circulation Manager.....Renee Walley
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Layout/News writer.....Shannon Simpson
Editor Emeritus.....Don McGregor

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MSU's BSU international banquet

Mississippi State University's Baptist Student Union president, Colbey Penton (above, left), welcomed the German A. Rodriguez family of Bogota, Colombia, to the group's annual International Dinner. Over 260 international students, representing 35 nations including the U.S., attended the dinner on March 25. Agnes Miciano, Filipino graduate student, sang "Love in any Language," also the theme for the gathering. Cathy Curtis, missionary to Burkina Faso, spoke on the difficulty, joy, and humor of learning to live in a different culture. Curtis shared that, just as Moses and Joshua had found God faithful in their journeys, she had found him dependable to lead her and care for her in "strange" lands. The meal was provided by First Church, Starkville, prepared by church members and staff, and students of the BSU.

Key SBC committee appointments made

HOUSTON (BP) — Appointments to two key committees to serve during the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Houston, June 15-17, have been announced by SBC President H. Edwin Young.

COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES

The committee has 68 members, 2 from each of the 34 state or regional conventions qualified for representation on SBC entities.

MISSISSIPPI — Malcolm Lewis, minister, Northcrest Church, Meridian; Barbara Williamson, layperson, First Church, Gulfport.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

The Resolutions Committee is composed of 10 members, three of whom must be members of the SBC Executive Committee.

The bylaw also asks that pro-

posed resolutions be sent to the committee 30 days before the annual meeting.

Young named James Merritt, pastor of First Church, Snellville, Ga. as the committee chairman.

Executive Committee members are: Ronnie Floyd, pastor of First Church, Springdale, Ark.; Jim Wells, pastor of Oakwood Church, Kansas City, Mo.; and Merritt.

Other members are: Charles Sullivan, executive director of the Indiana Baptist Convention; Robert Reccord, First Church, Norfolk, Va.; Timothy George, dean of Beeson Divinity School, Samford University, Birmingham, Ala.; Andrew Cheung, Orange County Chinese Church, Anaheim, Calif.; Dave Stillie, Seaman Church, Topeka, Kan.; Ben Rowell, Rogers Church, Rogers, Ark.; and Joel Gregory, First Church, Dallas.

Ethics center hosts health care conference

The Baptist Center for Ethics will conduct a conference on "The Church's Challenge in Health" May 12-13 at Southside Church in Birmingham, Ala. The program will feature lecturers from both health care professionals and theologians, and a panel discussion on the Clinton Health Care Plan.

Among the speakers are Thomas Droege of The Carter Center; Jerry Hickson, Vanderbilt University Medical Center; Wayne Flynt,

Auburn University, Michael Saag, University of Alabama Birmingham AIDS Outpatient Clinic; Stephen Shoemaker, Broadway Church, Fort Worth, Texas; Chuck Bugg, Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky.; and David Sapp, Derbyshire Church, Richmond, Va.

Cost for the conference is \$60. For more information, write Baptist Center for Ethics, P.O. Box 22188, Nashville, TN 37215.

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Five with Mississippi ties appointed to foreign fields

Five individuals with Mississippi connections were among 41 people named missionaries by the Foreign Mission Board April 20 in a commissioning service in Columbus, Ohio. They are George B. Tupper Jr., Stephen and Jennifer Glass, and Lonnie and Debbie Thompson.



Tupper

Tupper, an agriculturist, will live in Bangladesh, where he will direct the operation of Development Service center and be involved in a variety of outreach ministries.

Most recently Tupper served as minister of youth for Meadowview Church in Starkville. Earlier, he was minister of youth for First Church, Vardaman, and a Journeyman with the FMB to Ethiopia. He is a graduate of Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, and Mississippi State University, where he earned a master of agriculture degree. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Tupper Sr., live in Memphis.

The Glasses will serve as missionary associates to Kenya, where he will promote religious education, and they will be involved in a variety of outreach ministries.

Both natives of Washington state, the couple lived in Mississippi for several years while he served as minister of education and youth for Carriage Hill Church, Southaven, and minister of education, youth, and music for Immanuel Church, Cleveland. The couple and their three children most recently lived in Port Arthur, Texas. He is a graduate of Eastern Washington University, Cheney, and New Orleans Seminary. She is a physical therapist.

The Thompsons will live in Germany, where he will start and develop churches, and they will be involved in a variety of outreach ministries.

Born in Tylertown, Thompson considers Louisiana his home state. He has been a pastor in Louisiana and church planter with the Home Mission Board in Ohio. He holds degrees from Southeastern Louisiana University, Hammond, and New Orleans Seminary. Also a native of Louisiana, Debbie plans to graduate this month from Louisiana College, Pineville. The couple has two children.

many, where he will start and develop churches, and they will be involved in a variety of outreach ministries.



Stephen and Jennifer Glass



Lonnie and Debbie Thompson

Unpublished BSSB history emerges as issue at conference

By Art Toalston

NASHVILLE (BP) — A disputed book on the history of the Baptist Sunday School Board's first 100 years remains unpublished. But a former TV reporter's reference to its 13th chapter has rekindled interest in the board's 1990 decision against publishing the book.

Former Nashville TV reporter Tom Lee referred to the book by Baptist historian Leon McBeth, professor of church history at Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, its 13th chapter, and the Sunday School Board's then-controversial decision during the April 27-28 "Baptists & the News Media" Historical Commission conference in Nashville.

Lee requested at the conclusion of his presentation in a panel of news media April 28 that "Chapter 13" of McBeth's book be included as an attachment to his text in the Historical Commission's written record of the meeting. A manuscript of an apparent portion of Chapter 13

was included as one of four "attachments" to the written text he gave to the Historical Commission.

Lee shared a copy of the Chapter 13 manuscript with Baptist Press, along with an apparent portion of Chapter 14. He said the manuscripts had been given to him by a confidential source.

Because of uncertainties over contracts and copyright of the manuscript, Baptist Press has chosen not to print direct quotes from the text or attempt to summarize McBeth's portrayal of various events in the Sunday School Board's recent history.

Lynn E. May Jr., executive director of the Historical Commission, said the commission has no plans to publish "any part" of McBeth's manuscript.

Lee, now a law student at Vanderbilt University, stated McBeth's manuscript "included less-than-complimentary references to many of those who rose to denominational power during the political and

ecclesiastical struggle of the 1980s, including those who came to the Sunday School Board."

Lee quoted a 1989 letter from the board's Nashville attorney, Robert P. Thomas, to a Sunday School Board official admitting he was expressing a non-legal opinion but stating: "(I am) most concerned about what I consider to be a noticeable bias on the part of the author against the conservatives in the Southern Baptist Convention."

"I deny the charge that the (book) is slanted," McBeth said. "I affirm to my colleagues that the work will stand the scrutiny of fair-minded people, that it tells the story and tells the story honestly."

McBeth charged Lee with making an "inaccurate, incomplete, and incredibly biased" presentation. "If you would have opportunity to see the material that was written in context, you would revise your presentation."

Toalston writes for Baptist Press.

Committee on Nominations lists various recommendations

NASHVILLE (BP) — Nominees to serve on the Executive Committee and the four denominational boards — Foreign Mission Board, Home Mission Board, Sunday School Board, and the Annuity Board — have been selected by the 1993 Committee on Nominations.

They will serve if elected by the messengers to the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Houston, June 15-17.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (79 members): John Robbins, pastor of Bookcliff Church, Grand Junction, Colo.; Patrick M. Pajak, pastor of Tabernacle Church, Decatur, Ill.; Joe M. Cobb, BSU director and member of First Church, Booneville, replacing James F. Yates, Yazoo City.

Also nominated for terms expiring in 1997: John Click, Wichita, Kansas; Douglas Lester Dutton, Knoxville, Tenn.

Walter E. Davidson, Anchorage, Alaska, will be nominated for a term expiring in 1994; William R. Elliff, Little Rock, Ark., will be nominated for a term expiring in 1994; Robert Louis Sorrell, Cordova, Tenn., will be nominated for a term expiring in 1994.

Nominated for second terms are Richard M. Cagle, Gadsden, Ala.; Miriam Kibelbek, Port Charlotte, Fla.; John N. Bowman, Macon, Ga.; Paul F. House, Upland, Ind.; Terry L. Norris, Owensboro, Ky.; Jim Wells, Lee's Summit, Mo.; Ronald R. Huffman, Middletown, R.I.; David T. Button, Canton, N.Y.; Michael K. Moore, Wilmington, N.C.; Bill B. Horton, Asheville, N.C.; Johnnie L. Curtsinger, Broken Arrow, Okla.; Doug Westmoreland, Brentwood, Tenn.; Stan Coffey, Amarillo, Texas; Robert C. Jackson, Galax, Va.; Ronald L. Larson, Shepherdstown, W.Va.

FOREIGN MISSION BOARD (91 members): Nancy Callahan, Warrensburg, Mo.; Winston Gattis Perry, Garner, N.C.; Sam Friend, Bothell, Wash.; Katherine Fortner, Knoxville, Tenn.; Cal Guy, Burleson, Texas; David P. Alexander, Stafford, Va.

Also nominated for terms expiring in 1997: W.L. "Buddy" Hulsey Jr., Woodstock, Ga.; L. Grant Dimitt, Idaho Falls, Idaho.

Billy Joe Beckett, interim pastor of Hebron Church, Pheba, will be nominated for a term expiring in 1994 as the result of Terry L. Williams, Batesville, moving out of state; Richard D. Sisk, Memphis, Tenn., will be nominated for a term expiring in 1995; Stephen P. Davis, Russellville, Ark., will be nominated for a term expiring in 1995.

Nominated for second terms are Robert J. Oxford, Lakewood, Colo.; William H. Faulkner Jr., Winter Garden, Fla.; William D. Richardson, Troy, Ill.; Roger D. Roberts, Wichita, Kansas; Charles T. Gresham, Central City, Ky.; L.H. McCollough, Bastrop, La.; Ann Rowland, Roseville, Mich.; Michael D. Smith, Asheville, N.C.; Robert Reed Lynn, Shawnee, Okla.; Michael McGee, Bethany, Okla.; Karol S. Wise, Harrisburg, Pa.; Bobbie Jackson, Millington, Tenn.; LeRoy S. Smith, Houston; Terry L. Harper, Colonial Heights, Va.; J. Larry Holland, Rocky Mount, Va.; Russell Snead, Columbia, Va.

HOME MISSION BOARD (91 members): Nominees, with terms to expire in 1997, replacing members ineligible for re-election, include:

Joyce Boatwright, Winter Park, Fla.; John B. Thompson, Savannah, Ga.; Carol Cearley, Winston Salem, N.C.; M. Randall Jones, Conway, S.C.; Ronald Stewart, Knoxville, Tenn.; Bill Streich, Wichita Falls, Texas; Danny Souder, Dallas; John Edgar Culwell, Giddings, Texas.

Also nominated for a term expiring in 1997: David Carver, Caldwell, Idaho.

Lois Jean Brice, Camp Verde, Ariz., will be nominated for a term expiring in 1994. Jaffus L. Haley Jr., North Las Vegas, Nev., will be nominated for a term expiring in 1996. Wyndham Cook, Waldo, Ark., will be nominated for a term expiring in 1995.

Nominated for second terms are Randy P. Evers, Piedmont, Ala.; Michael R. Grebenik, Colorado Springs, Colo.; Wayne B. Goff, Punta Gorda, Fla.; Dana Walter Collett, Colo.; Sheldon W. Benz, Altamonte Springs, Fla.; Talmadge S. Chandler, Franklin, Ga.; Larry W. Wynn, Dacula, Ga.; Lynda Ruth Barfield, Hattiesburg; John L. Gilbert, Poplar Bluff, Mo.; Joe B. Brown, Charlotte, N.C.; Gary A. MacManamy, Midwest City, Okla.; Thomas R. Gullledge, Fort Mill, S.C.; Leon L. Bolton, Memphis, Tenn.; William J. Morris Jr., Denton, Texas; Dennis P. Lunsford, Humboldt, Tenn.; Burgess F. Guinn, Cornersville, Tenn.; Roy E. Miller, Lexington, Tenn.

ANNUIITY BOARD (53 members): Nominees with terms to expire in 1997, replacing members ineligible for re-election, include:

Gerald E. Bowman, Stuart, Fla.; Pete Sharber, Hazlehurst, Ga.; Clark Brown, Madisonville, Ky.; Jim Hixon, Lansing, Mich.; David Shepard, St. Charles, Mo.; Ivey D. Massey, Hobbs, N.M.; Guy Morton, Vermilion, Ohio; Dick Shackman, Princeton, W.Va.

Also nominated for terms expiring in 1997: Ken Lilly, Fort Smith, Ark.; Rick Welch, Peach Bottom, Pa.

Michael Rochelle, pastor of West Oakley Church, Las Vegas, Nev., will be nominated for a term expiring in 1994.

Nominated for second terms are Paul Carter, Kemp, Texas; Richard C. Scott, Crawford, Texas.

Seminary trustees
NASHVILLE (BP) — Trustees to serve on the boards of the six Southern Baptist seminaries have been nominated by the 1993 Committee on Nominations.

Under convention bylaws, seminary trustees serve five-year terms and are eligible to serve two consecutive terms.

In order to serve, the trustees must be elected by messengers to the 1993 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Houston, June 15-17.

SOUTHERN SEMINARY (64 members): Nominees, with terms to expire in 1998, include:

Rodney F. Autry, Jackson, Ga.; Lindell Reed, Independence, Mo.; Joey L. French, St. Louis; Fred Allen Steelman, Chattanooga, Tenn.; Howard Baldwin, Richmond, Va.

Also nominated for terms expiring in 1998: Steven W. Schenewerk, Winston, Ore.

Charles H. Gibson, Phoenix, Ariz., will be nominated for a term expiring in 1997; Orman W. Simmons, Little Rock, Ark., will be nominated for a term expiring in 1997;

SOUTHWESTERN SEMINARY (40 members): Nominees with terms to expire in 1998 include:

Edward Litton, Tucson, Ariz.; Willie R. Brumfield, pastor of Rolling Creek Church, replacing Bartis Harper, Tyler, Tex.; Richard N. McClure, Hugo, Okla.

Also nominated for terms expiring in 1998: James L. Leftwich, Melbourne, Fla.; Miles Seaborn Jr., Fort Worth, Texas.

Michael D. Marshall, Temple Hills, Md., will be nominated for a term expiring in 1994; Craig Atherton, Wichita, Kansas, will be nominated for a term expiring in 1994; Theodore E. Russell, Aztec, N.M., will be nominated for a term expiring in 1996; John E. Babb, Ely, Nevada, will be nominated for a term expiring in 1996; Robert C. Burch, Knoxville, Tenn., will be nominated for a term expiring in 1995; William W. Wyrick, Bluefield, W.Va., will be nominated for a term expiring in 1996.

Nominated for second terms are Danny Williams, Thornton, Colo.; Lula F. Walker, Beaverton, Ore.; George Lee Weaver, Fort Worth, Texas.

NEW ORLEANS SEMINARY (40 members): Nominees with terms to expire in 1998 include:

Charles M. Holloway, Monroe, La.; James Ellis Davison, Ruston, La.

Also nominated for terms expiring in 1998: Davis L. Cooper, Denver; Elizabeth S. Peterson, Greenwood, Ind.

Kyle Oliver, Temple Hills, Md., will be nominated for a term expiring in 1997; Patrick Charles Pfrimmer, pastor of Toomsba Church, Toomsba, will be nominated for a term expiring in 1994 as the result of J. Roy McComb, Columbia, moving out of state.

Nominated for second terms are Gary A. Enfinger, Thomasville, Ala.; Richard "Rick" Meigs, Portland, Ore.; Fred L. Lowery, Bossier City, La.; Cynthia S. Thompson, Monroe, La.; Dennis W. Swanberg, West Monroe, La.

SOUTHEASTERN SEMINARY (30 members): Nominees with terms to expire in 1998 include:

Charles W. Waller, Bumpass, Va.; Elmer J. Dryden, Charlotte, N.C.

William Gregory Horton, Simpsonville, S.C., will be nominated for a term expiring in 1995.

Nominated for second terms are Edwin L. Bailey, Placencia, Calif.; Jerre Brannen, Gainesville, Fla.; Clarence R. Brock, Yorktown, Ind.; Daniel E. Johnston Sr., Jonesville, S.C.

MIDWESTERN SEMINARY (35 members): Nominees with terms to expire in 1998 include:

Ronald A. Fullerton Sr., El Sobrante, Calif.; L. Joe McKinney, Albuquerque, N.M.

Nominated for second terms are Ronnie W. Rogers, Hot Springs, Ark.; Claude B. McHan, Stringer; James B. Dobbs, Dublin, Ohio; Marvin T. Nobles, Mapaville, Mo.; Allen R. Bartlett, Gallatin, Mo.

GOLDEN GATE SEMINARY (39 members): Nominees with terms to expire in 1998 include:

Mahlon Morley, Belle Plaine, Kansas; Jerry A. Coleman, Bellevue, Wash.

Also nominated for terms expiring in 1998: Richard Johnson, pastor of Parkview Church, Greenville, replacing Bobby R. Arnold, Jackson, who resigned; Donald H. Ledbetter, Reno, Nevada.

Cactus J. Cagle, Houston, will be nominated for a term expiring in 1996.

Nominated for second terms are Billie L. Veatch, Tucson, Ariz.; Barrett Duke Jr., Littleton, Colo.; Darrell Gabbard, Dublin, Ohio; Edgar T. Anderson, Renton, Wash.

Mississippians to be nominated at SBC

— Joe Cobb, BSU director, Booneville, to the Executive Committee
— Billy Joe Beckett, interim pastor, Hebron, to the Foreign Mission Board
— Robert M. Williamson, pastor, Park Place Church, Brandon, to the Foreign Mission Board
— Burnie L. Brooks, equipment supervisor and member of West Ellisville Church, to the Baptist Sunday School Board
— Willie R. Brumfield, pastor, Rolling Creek Church, Quitman, to Southwestern Seminary
— Patrick C. Pfrimmer, pastor, Toomsba Church, to New Orleans Seminary
— Richard Johnson, pastor, Parkview Church, Greenville, to Golden Gate Seminary

To be nominated for second terms:

— Greg Martin, pastor, Commission Road Church, Long Beach, to the Home Mission Board
— Lynda Ruth Barfield, member of Main Street Church, Hattiesburg, to the Sunday School Board
— John S. Allen, pastor, Richton Church, to Southern Seminary
— Claude McHan, Stringer, to Midwestern Seminary.

Columbia, Md.; J. Greg Martin, Long Beach; Marti Hefley, Hannibal, Mo.; James Guenther, Schenectady, N.Y.; Alfred R. Wright, Goldsboro, N.C.; Tina Rene Brewer, Roseburg, Ore.; Keith Russell, Elk City, Okla.; David Stone, Enid, Okla.; Tom Madden, Murfreesboro, Tenn.; Betty Haynes, Pell City, Ala.; Floyd Lee Battles Sr., Silver Creek, Ga.

BAPTIST SUNDAY SCHOOL BOARD (93 members): Rafael de Armas, Orlando, Fla.; John Rice, Manchester, Ky.; Burnie L. Brooks, heavy equipment supervisor and member of West Ellisville Church, Ellisville, replacing W. Eugene Henderson, Brandon; Roy Mason, High Point, N.C.; Kenneth R. Speakman, Nashville.

Also nominated for terms expiring in 1997: Timothy Clark, Palmer, Alaska; Ben McCann, Swords Creek, Va.

Timothy George, Birmingham, Ala., will be nominated for a term expiring in 1994; Ben J. Rowell, Rogers, Ark., will be nominated for a term expiring in 1995; Randy Myers, White Bird, Idaho, will be nominated for a term expiring in 1994; Ben Smith, Norwood, Ohio, will be nominated for a term expiring in 1994; Danny E. Bell, Incline Village, Nev., will be nominated for a term expiring in 1995.

Nominated for second terms are Sidney W. Nichols, Elmore, Ala.; Mark W. Brooks, Springdale, Ark.; E. H. Peery Jr., LaHabra, Calif.; Dennis E. Perkins, Broomfield,

Young Musicians' Camp to be held July 26-30, Blue Mountain College

The Young Musicians' Camp will be held July 26-30 at Blue Mountain College. Martha Kirkland, Church Music Department, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, will be the guest conductor. The camp, with the theme, "Christmas in July," is for children who have finished grades 4-6 by June. Worship services will be led by Jack Bennett, pastor of First, Ripley.

"One of the positives of this camp is... the enrollment is limited to 150, so faculty, sponsors, and children get to know each other

more intimately," says Sarah Talley, contract consultant, preschool/children, Church Music Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

The cost is \$87 which includes room and meals; commuters pay \$2 per day plus meals. Call 968-3800 for more information and reservation request forms.



Kirkland

Blue Mountain schedules 120th commencement

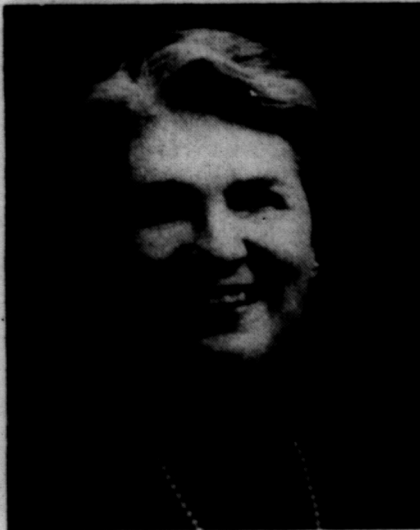
Blue Mountain College will hold its 120th commencement exercises May 9. Ninety-eight graduates, representing four states and one foreign country, will be awarded the bachelor's degree.

The baccalaureate service will be at 11 a.m. in the Modena Lowrey Berry Auditorium with Guy Henderson, editor of the Baptist Record, delivering the sermon. Henderson is a graduate of Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary, and a former missionary to the Philippines and

Korea. He joined the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board staff in 1978.

The commencement address will be delivered at 3 p.m. in the Berry Auditorium by Joanne Hawks, director of the Sarah Isom Center for Women's Studies, and assistant professor of history at the University of Mississippi.

Hawks is a graduate of Agnes Scott College and the University of Mississippi, and served as associate professor of social science at Blue Mountain from 1966-72.



Hawks



Henderson

All families experience crisis — can be opportunity, says Lepper

By Linda Lawson

NASHVILLE (BP) — Family crises are not a matter of if, but when.

"No family is immune from crisis," said John Lepper, director of the Family Ministry Department for the Kentucky Baptist Convention and author of the 1993 Christian Home Emphasis textbook, *When Crisis Comes Home*.

"Being Christian doesn't make you immune from crises," Lepper said. "It equips you to deal with them."

While family crises are inevitable, "they are not always major and they are not always bad," added Phil Waugh, family ministry leadership specialist in the Baptist Sunday School Board's discipleship and family development division which sponsors Christian Home Emphasis.

"Anytime there is change, there is the potential for crisis," Waugh said.

Christian Home Emphasis will be observed by many churches in May and June, between Mother's Day and Father's Day. Resources are provided for studies with all age groups.

Lepper identifies four types of crises in his book. The first, acute, encompasses events most commonly associated with crisis — death, accident, sudden illness. A second type is crises related to trends in society such as divorce, alcohol or drug abuse, AIDS, or adjustments of step-families.

Third are social or natural disasters such as a hurricane or major military operation such as Operation Desert Storm. Fourth is developmental crises, those related to life stages, such as retirement, birth of a child, teenager starting to drive, marriage.

In *When Crisis Comes Home*, Lepper introduces the Chinese symbol for crisis which includes the symbols for danger and opportunity.

As danger, "crisis makes a fam-

ily vulnerable to collapse or disintegration," Lepper said. "Crises also present opportunities for families to grow stronger."

Waugh said he hopes many churches which have not observed Christian Home Emphasis in the past will do so in 1993 as a way to assess and meet the needs of hurting families in their congregations.

"There are a lot of hurting people who may not voice it. Given an opportunity, they may express it on paper," Waugh said. "The challenge for leaders then becomes to find creative ways to meet those specific needs."

Nick Garland, pastor of First

Christian Home Emphasis, "families will be strengthened and be able to recognize there is more than one option in coping with a crisis."

Also, he said, the emphasis can help "families in crisis to realize the enormous resource their churches can provide and enable churches to provide more effective ministries in the midst of crises."

Christians are better equipped to help in some kinds of crises than others, Lepper observed. "We know how to respond to families who experience grief in the death of a loved one. We are less sure how to help during divorce and even less sure on crises related to trends in society such as AIDS and step-families."

Too often at church, Lepper said, people "have on the garments of church, of peace and well-being. We appear from the outside that all is well when all is not well."

"Everywhere I go, all I have to do is listen and people will tell me where they hurt," he added.

While family crises bring pain and changed lives, Lepper emphasizes in the epilogue of his book that the ultimate word for families experiencing crisis is hope.

"One day you will look back on your family crisis and wonder how you endured it all," Lepper wrote.

"But as the day of your liberation eventually comes — when you finally move beyond your nightmare to your dream — you are able to reflect on God's presence and power which enabled your family to grow in the process.... The God revealed in Jesus Christ has walked with your family through this crisis! He promises to walk with you into the future! You are, indeed, able to sing the Lord's song in the strange land of change!"

Lawson writes for Baptist Sunday School Board.

WHEN CRISIS COMES HOME

CHRISTIAN HOME EMPHASIS 1993
MAY 9-JUNE 20

Church in Broken Arrow, Okla., said the willingness to walk with people through their crises is the most important ministry.

"I heard a professor say one time that in times of crisis people won't remember what you said but they'll never forget you came," Garland recalled.

For people not experiencing family crises, Christian Home Emphasis represents an opportunity to become better equipped to minister to others and to be better prepared to deal with family crises which may arise in the future, Waugh said.

"This can be an opportunity to help our people celebrate the victory that can be experienced through crises," he added.

Lepper said he hopes, through

Brotherhood approves "Changers" expansion

MEMPHIS (BP) — Trustees of the Brotherhood Commission approved expansion of the World Changers coed mission action option to additional age groups and endorsed related shifts of the Memphis staff at their April 23-24 meeting.

"The expansion of the World Changers concept to senior adults and college-age men and women is a natural outgrowth of the success we've had with high schoolers.

The concept has been a blessing for everyone involved," said James D. Williams, Brotherhood Commission president.

World Changers has grown steadily since the first small pilot project in 1990. With less than two months remaining before the first 1993 projects, more than 3,900 youth and leaders from 234 churches are registered to participate, with several churches on a waiting list. Last year, 2,300 people participated.

Personnel changes included the election of Russell Griffin, director of the children and youth division since 1985, to the position of assistant vice president for program services. Griffin will have staff management responsibility for special projects, including World Changers, and will serve as staff to the office of the vice president of program services.

Griffin, 45, came to the Brotherhood Commission in 1981 to direct the Pioneer Royal Ambassador department after five years as a Brotherhood consultant for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

In other action, the trustees adopted a 1993-94 budget of \$4.8 million, representing a 12.5% increase over 1992-93. The budget calls for a 2% increase in staff salaries and reflects the 1.46% reduction in Cooperative Program funding for all Southern Baptist agencies.

Directors of missions look to future

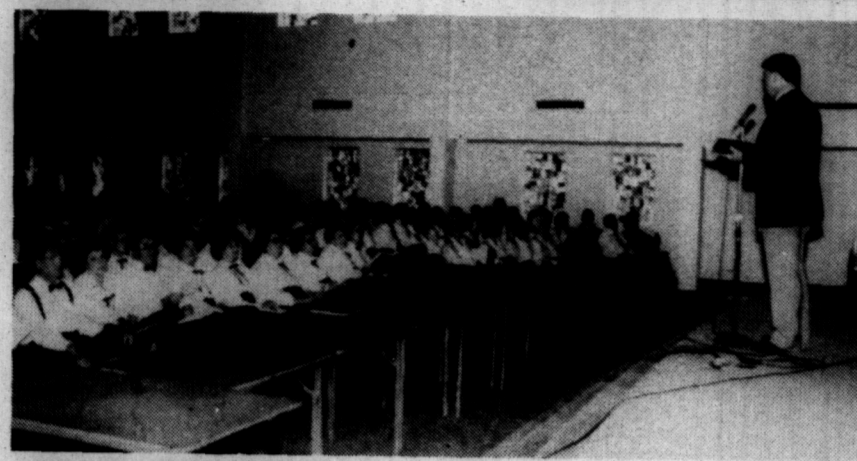
HOUSTON (BP) — "Looking Toward Tomorrow" will be the theme of the June 13-14 meeting of the Southern Baptist Conference of Associational Directors of Missions at Houston's Stouffer Presidente Hotel.

Larry McSwain, newly-elected president of Shorter College in Georgia and former provost at Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky., and Stan Nelson, Golden Gate Seminary professor, will be among the speakers presenting a future-oriented look at the work of Baptist associations.

A. Kenneth Chadwick, director of missions for Baptist work in the Salt Lake City area, is the association's current president.

Thursday, May 6, 1993

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5



Music events draw record crowds

Since January, more than 4,800 Mississippi Baptists have participated in a variety of activities sponsored by the Church Music Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Among the largest crowds were those attending the State Senior Adult Choir Festival and the State Young Musicians' Choral Festival, which registered 900 and 1,600 respectively. L. Graham Smith (top photo), director of the Church Music Department, MBCB, led senior adults in singing their favorite hymns during their event. The young musicians' festival was conducted by Eileen Straw (bottom photo) of Atlanta, Ga. Other church music events and registrations include: Keyboard Festivals, 1,242; State Youth Choir Festival, 350; Church Music Conference, 75; Electronic Keyboard Key Leader Seminar, 75; and Handbell Festivals, 575.

Mississippi Baptists in Broadcasting present awards to local churches

Mississippi Baptist churches and others were recognized with awards during the seventh annual Mississippi Baptists in Broadcasting (MBIB) meeting held April 23-24 at Calvary Church, Jackson.

Television and video awards given were:

— for Best Program, Church Musical: "From Sea to Shining Sea," Main Street Church, Hattiesburg;

— for Best Program, Human Interest: "Psalm 66," First Church, Cleveland;

— for Best Program, Sports: "Football 1993," ACTS Teleproductions, Laurel;

— for Best Program, Missions/Evangelism: "Magnify," ACTS Teleproductions, Laurel;

— for Best Program, Community Service: "Razzmatazz—The Roar-

ing Twenties," ACTS of Greenville; — and for Creative Use of Television: "Home Improvement—Building My Life on Him," Discipleship Training/Family Ministry Department, MBCB, Jackson.

Radio awards given were: — for Best Program, Missions/Evangelism: "Mary" (A Christmas Sketch), Wina King Still and Benny Still, Mendenhall; — and for Best Spot: "The Hood of the Car," First Church, Ellisville.

The awards are given annually to recognize outstanding work by churches, local ACTS boards, and other Christians, and are presented at the MBIB banquet.

Farrell Blankenship, director of Broadcast Services, MBCB, reports this year's MBIB meeting had the largest attendance ever at the banquet (47) and workshops (80).

Churches adopt the Expanded Annuity Plan

The following churches have adopted the Expanded Annuity Plan since those reported in the April 8 issue of the Baptist Record: Benton-Tippah: Pine Grove; Itawamba: Fairview; Marshall: Clear Creek; Pearl River: Flat Top Unity and Steep Hollow; Scott: First, Lake; and Wayne: West Shady Grove.



NASHVILLE— Lewis Harrell (left), minister of youth and college students at Faith Church in Starkville, Miss., and Michael Capps, a youth worker at Mud Creek Church in East Flat Rock, N.C., participate in an "adventure recreation" game at the Youth Ministry National Conference 4, held April 19-23.

Adults need to intervene to curb teen problems

By Sarah Zimmerman

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — Without adult intervention, problems among American teens will only get worse, predicted a Southern Baptist pastoral care professor. "If you think the 1960's were turbulent, wait until the next five years," said Wade Rowatt, Lawrence and Charlotte Hoover professor of pastoral care at Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky. "If we don't respond, the riots of the '60s will look like skirmishes." Rowatt addressed a conference on "Children and the Church" sponsored by the seminary's Gheens Center for Christian Family Ministry and co-sponsored by seven other Baptist entities.

Today's teens are in a "new level of difficulty," said Rowatt, who recently studied youth crises during a nine-month sabbatical. Citing issues such as murder, drug abuse, and AIDS, Rowatt said more teenagers are in trouble than in years past and they are involved in problems at an earlier age.

He blames teens' problems on adults, however. "Teenagers are just trying to grow up and meet legitimate needs without adequate resources," he said.

Some ways adults can help include:

- Value each ethnic group. "Teenagers need a place where their heritage is worth something, a place where they are loved for who they are. They need a message of equality and that their uniqueness is acceptable."

- Create meaningful places of service. Teens are under-challenged, Rowatt said. Churches used to give teens jobs such as playing the piano, taking up the offering, or working in the nursery. Now most churches pamper teenagers without giving them any real responsibility, Rowatt said.

- Educate parents through shared resources of schools, gov-

ernments, and churches. Such groups need to work together as a society, not in isolation, he said.

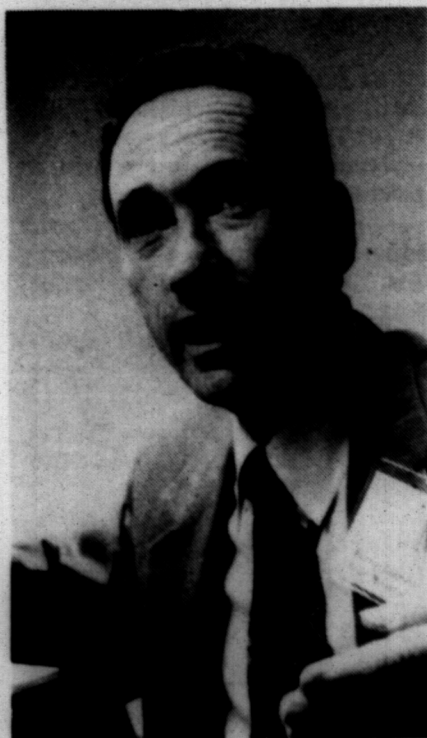
- Produce programs with an attractive package. "We need MTV quality with a moral message," Rowatt said. A poor medium will keep the message from being heard, he said.

- Share programs. Something that works should be franchised to the nation, he said.

- Listen, listen, listen. "Don't talk down to teenagers or make decisions for them or push them aside."

- Spend time with teens. "Adolescents need as much of their parents' time as 2-year-olds," he said.

Zimmerman writes for HMB.



NASHVILLE— Jerry Garrison, youth pastor at Martin Church in New Albany, Miss., asks a question during a seminar on youth Bible study at the April 19-23 Youth Ministry National Conference 4.

Counselor urges awareness of legal issues in ministry

By Linda Lawson

NASHVILLE (BP) — Almost any dimension of youth ministry — counseling, sports and recreation activities, trips, volunteer workers — can become the subject of a lawsuit, a clinical therapist warned April 20 during a session of Youth Ministry National Conference 4 in Nashville.

Tony Rankin, of Antioch, Tenn., a former youth minister, said lawsuits against churches and ministers center in six categories: clergy negligence, physical and sexual abuse, confidentiality, consent, sports/amusements, and religious freedom.

Whatever the issue, Rankin advised, know the laws of your state.

In clergy negligence, Rankin said Southern Baptist ministers can be vulnerable because they are not regulated by a peer board and frequently not accountable to an official body. He cited a case where negligence was alleged when a minister failed to refer a troubled youth for psychiatric help and the youth committed suicide.

Concerning physical and sexual abuse, Rankin warned that laws differ from state to state and that ministers must know and follow the law. For example, in Tennessee any adult is responsible for

reporting incidents of suspected abuse. Reports are kept confidential.

"If you suspect abuse, you need to report it. The protection of teenagers is Christlike," Rankin said. "In my opinion, it's important to let your pastor know you have made a report so he knows you have taken correct legal action."

When youth ministers counsel with teens or their parents, Rankin said they are bound by confidentiality laws. Three issues require breaking confidentiality — the counselee is considered a threat to take the life of another, a threat to commit suicide, or is being abused.

"You are bound by law to report these. Let them (people being counseled) know up front that things remain confidential except for three things," he said.

In the area of consent, Rankin said youth ministers may be under the impression that consent and waiver forms signed by parents eliminate liability.

"The only thing consent forms are good for is they show intent on your part to cover all bases," Rankin said. Hospitals are not required to honor consent forms, but some will.

In sports and recreation activi-

ties, "you need to be careful that all equipment is in working order. You can get sued even if a teen was goofing off if the equipment was not in good order."

He also urged purchasing "trip-specific" insurance for youth trips.

On religious liberty issues such as holding Bible studies or other religious meetings at school, Rankin said youth ministers may not direct, conduct, control, or regularly attend such meetings held during school hours. Laws are more flexible before and after school.

He said churches should carry a minimum of \$1 million in liability insurance for each minister and \$1-2 million for the church. Also, youth ministers should carry personal liability coverage which is available at reasonable rates through renter's or homeowner's policies.

Also, Rankin said youth ministers should talk regularly with a lawyer to get counsel on legal implications of issues and activities, and maintain close communication with the pastor and a clinical therapist.

"The Bible says forgive and forget, but the law doesn't," Rankin said.

Lawson writes for BSSB.

Ministries should include sex education

By Pat Cole

Turrentine noted teenage girls who have low self-esteem, poor grades in school, and a sense of hopelessness for the future are more likely to experience an unplanned pregnancy.

She offered seven suggestions for congregations to follow to help prevent teen pregnancy and promote responsible sexual behavior among teens:

- Offer programs that foster hope, encouragement, self-esteem, and relationships with caring adults.

- Provide tutoring and educa-

tional support.

- Offer programs that teach not only sexuality information but values related to sex.

- Help children and youth develop decision-making skills.

- Facilitate forums in which parents and children can communicate.

- Guide teenagers to see decisions about sex and their bodies are ultimately spiritual decisions.

- Convey the message of God's love and grace.

Cole writes for Southern Seminary.



NASHVILLE— A group of youth ministers pause for prayer during the opening worship service of Youth Ministry National Conference 4 held April 19-23. More than 1,000 youth ministers from 32 states attended the conference, which was sponsored by the Baptist Sunday School Board, Home Mission Board, Brotherhood Commission, and Woman's Missionary Union. (Photos by Jim Veneman)

HOUSE TOPS

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light: and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the housetops. Matthew 10:27 NAS

May 6, 1993

HouseTops is a supplement to the **Baptist Record** and is produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Susan Elaine Buie: Cooperative Program Champion

by Debbie Baird Buie



Susan Buie is a six-year old born again Christian. She's also a member of GA at Woodlawn Baptist, Vicksburg, and she is finishing up requirements to get her first Missions Adventures Badge. Her current project is Activity 10 "I CP and Me" Giant Story Book. Since Mom writes for the MBCB Stewardship Office, we had to choose this activity. So we gather all the things we need and embark on the reading of the WMU-prepared booklet "I Am a Part of Something Big." The title of the book's second section is "What is a Tithe?"

"Tithe," says the little girl missing four front teeth, "is when the water comes back to the beach."

Quickly discerning from her Mom's sudden mirth that she hasn't got it quite right, she asks "What did you ask?"

For a year now Susan has gotten an allowance when she does her chores without a hitch. She can add and subtract, but the word percent only makes sense to her when "a hundred" precedes it, as in "I am a hundred percent sure that's the truth!" She knows the value of her \$1.50 every week--not much you can buy for Barbie with that little money. She also knows that 15 cents of that amount already belongs to God.

"Oh, so that's a tithe, 15 cents!" she says with a little more understanding. "But I always give more than that."

Fact is, if you let Susan take her wallet to church with all the money given her by assorted grandparents and three week's worth of allowance, she will dole out portions of it to every child who has forgotten his offering and likely will put the balance into the offering plate—that Barbie wedding ensemble forgotten until the next visit to the Wal-Mart toy aisle.

But today she is learning what a very special 15 cents --her tithe--will buy. It won't buy much, but she remembers the tracts displayed in the church library and wonders how many of those she has bought over the past year and how many people found help because of them. I tell her about the one I took to help me share the Good News of Christ with the Jehovah's Witnesses that frequently come to our door.

We talk about what happens to the money our church sends to the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board in

1993 FAMILY WEEK

"When Crisis Comes Home"

July 5-9, Gulfshore Baptist Assembly

(Monday supper through Friday breakfast)



Featured Speakers:

Kathy and Ken Jordan, National Family Ministry Leaders

Music Leaders:

Carol Joy and Tommy Sparkman, Parkway Baptist Church, Jackson

Special Feature:

Ventriloquist - Danny Henderson and "Lucky," Ingalls Avenue Baptist Church, Pascagoula



Free time for families

--afternoons and all day Wednesday

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION BOARD

Bill Causey, Executive Director/Treasurer
Eugene Dobbs, Administrative Assistant for Ministry

DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING DEPARTMENT

Mose Dangerfield, Director
P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205

"Helping to Bring Mississippi and the World to Jesus"

Conferences for all ages:

- The Influence of the Media on the Family -- Paul Jones, MBCB
- The Sandwich Generation -- Beth Holmes, MBCB
- Resources for the Family -- James Blackwell, Chaplain, Vicksburg
- Life Support -- ministering to hurting people -- Robin Nichols, MBCB



REGISTRATION 1993 Gulfshore Family Week

Names of Adults: _____

Address: _____

Children's Names and Birthdays (month/year) _____

COST PER PERSON Room and Meals

Class "A" Accommodations (2 per room)

Adult	\$140.00
Youth	\$136.80
Child (2-11)	\$68.40

Class "C" Accommodations (3 or more per room)

Adult	\$128.00
Youth (12-12th grade)	\$71.80
Child (2-11)	\$40.90

Mail with \$30 deposit for an individual or \$75 for a family to Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, 100 First Street, Pass Christian, MS 39571.

Article continued on back page

REVERSE THE BLESSINGS!

by Indy Whitten, Prayer Coordinator, MBCB

Three years ago in March 1990, Doug and Gail Benedict of Purvis, Miss., faced a tremendous crisis in their lives. A liver transplant seemed the only way to save Doug's life. They packed up and went to Baylor Medical Center in Houston, Tex., to wait for a transplant. They had to wait until June 9 and during those days that seemed twice as long as normal, they lived in an apartment of the Baylor Medical Center.

June 9 proved not to be the end of the crisis. When the process of rejection of the liver began, a new drug, just released for use eight days before, became the solution. In case of rejection, another liver would have been necessary.

Telephone calls, telegrams, letters and cards made the Benedicts very aware of the prayer support of family and friends. They kept the messages in a basket, and when they finally returned to Miss. in September, the basket came with them. Doug had been on leave-of-absence as director of missions of the Lamar Baptist Association, and soon he was able to resume his work.

What about the basket? It is kept in a place that makes it available for their devotional time. Each day they take out three communications and have special prayer for the people who sent them.

For collect telephone calls, it is often said, "Reverse the charges." But the Benedicts say, "Lord, reverse the blessings!" □

PRAYERGRAM

May 6-20, 1993

Pray that your church will have the blessing of joining in the 1993 Day of Prayer and Fasting for World Evangelization, 6 p.m., May 28 through 6 p.m., May 29. Southern Baptists and other Great Commission Christians worldwide hold a day of prayer and fasting for some of the world's 3.5 million people. The focus for this year's prayer emphasis is Mongolia, where there are 855 known believers in 10 Baptist churches. For an information packet, including a video tape, call Customer Services at 1-800-866-FMB1, or write the FMB. Delivery requires 2 weeks.

Pray for Madagascar (Indian Ocean). The southern end of the island is experiencing famine. There are still unreached people groups here, and many are dying because of lack of food and water. Pray for Southern Baptist missionaries as they witness in this situation.

Pray for the Ankara Baptist Church International that is in its first year of existence. Pray that the congregation of less than 100 will grow and reach out for Christ in Turkey.

Pray for Sally Lennon of the Wilmington Baptist Association in N.C. Sally is a volunteer working with the English-as-a-second-language ministry. She asks for prayer for a ministry to Chinese be started to reach a growing population of Chinese from mainland China. A Chinese-speaking pastor is needed to start the ministry.

CHURCH RENEWAL

by Sidney Ellis, State Church Renewal Coordinator

Today, more than ever, our nation stands in dire need of prayer and renewal. We stand on the brink of destruction because of our moral decay, lack of prayer, and lack of commitment to take a stand for Christ. The main purpose of the Church Renewal Journey is to awaken and equip Christians to live their faith in the marketplace with the message and ministry of Christ. To challenge people of God to become involved in ministry, not from a sense of obligation or duty, but from a call of God with a joy and fulfillment.

Following are excerpts from a pastor, Randy Lewman, Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Brookhaven, who had a recent Lay Renewal Weekend:

My first exposure with Lay Renewal occurred in 1981 as a layman at my church, First Baptist Church, Summit. After this experience, I served as a team member, working with youth in various other churches. I entered the pastorate in 1987 at Bluff Springs Baptist Church. Here I had my first experience at leading a church to prepare for a Lay Renewal Weekend. After that October 1989, weekend, I saw lives changed, homes transformed, and a church touched by God.

From there, God called me as pastor of Mt. Zion Baptist Church in May 1991. It was during the first year that God put on my heart the need for a Lay Renewal. We discovered in this one that prayer was a vital ingredient for the success of our weekend. Individuals were asked to pray specifically for

Pray for Luis Munoz, pastor of Las Americas Baptist Church in Ontario, Canada. There are about 20,000 Hispanics in the Mississauga community and only 20-30 are attending church.

Pray for Bob Remick, a bivocational pastor of the Victory Baptist Church in Brant Rock, Mass. Pray for him as he tries to keep up his church and bivocational work. His oldest daughter, who is married, has a heart condition that has left her with arrhythmia problems.

Pray for Dottie Williamson, a church planter strategizing working in multi-housing ministry in the Hinds-Madison Association. Churches in the area are providing volunteer help for the summer program and 39 different housing areas are receptive to ministry.

Pray for the annual Medical-Dental Fellowship meeting to be held May 7-8, 1993, at FBC, Jackson. Partnership missions will be featured during the course of the program.

Pray for the Christian home emphasis in June. Instead of lamenting the conditions of America, pray that the Lord will use you to influence your own family and inspire your church to minister in relevant ways to families.

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST PRAYERLINE
969-PRAY

Lay Renewal. We implemented into our Discipleship Training, a ten-hour prayer video tape seminar by Don Miller. We culminated our preparations with the 24-hour prayer vigil. I firmly believe when people pray, God blesses.

On February 26-28, 1993, our church experienced the Lay Renewal. One church member said concerning the weekend, "I expected something, but nothing like this!" Another said, "I was skeptical about having the weekend, but I prayed for God to change my heart, I am glad He did!" Another said, "When I think of Lay Renewal, it is like going to Heaven!" Another had a special event, he said, "I am excited, I got saved today!"

Our Lay Renewal Weekend blessed us with a fresh awareness of the presence of God, bridges in relationships were built, families were drawn closer together, a new surge of life has invaded the church, and two lost people were saved. I have been privileged to see Lay Renewal from several different angles, as a layman, a renewal team member, and a pastor. I have been in some powerful church services, exciting revival meetings, but none compare with the experience I have witnessed during a Lay Renewal Weekend.

For information, contact the Brotherhood Department, MBCB at 968-3800. Schedule for renewals below.

1993 CHURCH RENEWAL SCHEDULE

Feb. 19-21	Grace BC, Philadelphia •
Feb. 26-28	Mt. Zion BC, Brookhaven •
Mar. 5-7	FBC, Quitman •
Mar. 12-14	Pineview BC, Clinton •
Mar. 19-21	Tylertown BC, Tylertown •
Mar. 19-21	Hollywood BC, Sledge •
Mar. 26-28	Griffith Memorial BC, Jackson •
Mar. 26-28	FBC, McComb •
Mar. 26-28	Kilmichael BC, Kilmichael •
Apr. 10-11	Eastlawn BC, Pascagoula •
Apr. 16-18	Southside BC, Aberdeen •
April 23-25	FBC, Verona •
Apr. 23-25	Wheeler BC, Wheeler ••
Apr. 23-25	New Zion BC, Crystal Springs •
Apr. 30 - May 2	Grace Memorial BC, Gulfport •
June 25-27	Trinity BC, Fulton ••••
Aug. 6-8	FBC, Kosciusko ••
Aug. 6-8	Crowder BC, Crowder ••
Aug. 27-29	Morgan City BC, Morgan City •••
Aug. 27-29	FBC, Lauderdale •
Nov. 5-7	Sunflower BC, Sunflower •

- Lay Renewal Weekend
- Discipleship Weekend
- Lay Ministry Weekend
- Stewardship Evangelism Weekend

HOUSE OF

SUNDAY SCHOOL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCES

Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, Pass Christian, Miss.

JULY 22-24, 1993

General Officer:

Pastor/Staff

Jerri Herring, Growth Consultant, BSSB, Nashville
Sunday School Directors/General Officers Randy Tompkins, Consultant, MBCB

Adult:

Young Adults (18-34)

Median Adults (35-64)

Senior Adults (65-up)

Jeff Ingram, Minister of Ed., FBC, Wiggins

Bill Crider, Minister of Ed., FBC, Hattiesburg

Larry Salter, Consultant, MBCB

Youth:

Workers (New -2 years)

Workers (Exp. +2 years)

Youth Bible Study

Sean Keith, Consultant, MBCB

Phil Brown, Youth Minister, Crossgates, Brandon

Pam Keith, Special Worker, Hillcrest, Jackson

Children:

Department Directors

Teachers

Cathy Jeffcoats, Minister to Children, FBC, Jackson

Ella Williams, Special Worker, Central, McComb

Children/Preschool:

Division Directors/Staff

Lab Director

Linda Reeves, Consultant, MBCB

Barbara Brown, Special Worker, Colonial Heights, Jackson

Preschool:

Department Directors

Teachers

Cradle Roll Visitor/Teacher

Linda Myers, Special Worker, Henderson, Tenn.

Sandra Nobles, Special Worker, FBC, Tupelo

Peggy Ward, Special Worker, Highland, Vicksburg

JULY 29-31, 1993

General Officer:

Pastor/Staff

David Seay, Design Editor, Growing Churches, BSSB, Nashville
Sunday School Directors/General Officers Randy Tompkins, Consultant, MBCB

Adult:

Young Adults (18-34)

Median Adults (35-64)

Senior Adults (65-up)

Jeff Ingram, Minister of Ed., FBC, Wiggins

Keith Williams, Adult Consultant, General Conv. of Tex.

Phyllis Blackwell, Special Worker, FBC, Jackson

Youth:

Workers (New -2 years)

Workers (Exp. +2 years)

Youth Bible Study

Sean Keith, Consultant, MBCB

Steve Stubblefield, Minister of Ed., Park Place, Brandon

Pam Keith, Special Worker, Hillcrest, Jackson

Children:

Department Directors

Teachers

Children's Worship Leaders

Virginia Hess, Special Worker, Ozark, Ala.

Betty Davis, Special Worker, New Hebron, New Hebron

Mary Buckner, Special Worker, Memphis

Children/Preschool:

Division Directors/Staff

Lab Director

Linda Reeves, Consultant, MBCB

Barbara Brown, Special Worker, Colonial Heights, Jackson

Preschool:

Department Directors

Teachers

Gay Lynn Cagle, Minister to Preschool, Wichita Falls, Tex.

Jean Burton, Special Worker, Memphis

Registration must be made directly with Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, 100 First St., Pass Christian, MS 39571, Phone: 452-7261.

Experienced workers will be teaching your **children** in the July conferences from the September Sunday School units. Outside activities will be a part of each child's learning experience.

All **youth** will attend our exciting, dynamic Bible study that will focus on their unique needs from a biblical perspective.

SCHEDULE

Thursday

3:30-5:00	Registration
5:15-6:30	Dinner
6:45-7:45	General Session in Auditorium
8:00-9:15	BREAKTHROUGH Sunday School Leadership Conferences
9:30-10:00	Ice Cream Fellowship
Friday	
6:40	Bible Study on Pier
7:00-8:00	Breakfast
8:30-10:00	BREAKTHROUGH Sunday School Leadership Conferences
10:00-10:30	Break
10:30-12:00	BREAKTHROUGH Sunday School Leadership Conferences

12:00-1:00	Lunch
Afternoon Free Time	
5:30-6:30	Dinner
6:45-7:45	General Session in Auditorium
8:00-9:15	BREAKTHROUGH Sunday School Leadership Conferences
Saturday	
6:40	Bible Study on Pier
7:00-8:00	Breakfast
8:30-10:00	BREAKTHROUGH Sunday School Leadership Conferences
10:00-10:30	Break
10:30-11:30	General Session in Auditorium
11:45	Lunch

Youth...nothing to do? NOT!!! See where to be in '93!!!

May 15 Young Ringers Handbell/ Chime Festival; Oak Forest BC, Jackson

YOUTH CONFERENCES - GULFSHORE ASSEMBLY

May 30 - June 4	June 8-12	June 17-21
June 4-8	June 12-16	June 24-28

GA CAMPS - CAMP GARAYWA

June 2-4 GA Mini	June 21-25 GA Camp	July 12-16 GA Camp
June 7-11 GA Camp	June 30- July 2 GA Mini	July 19-23 GA Camp
June 14-18 GA Camp	July 5-9 GA Camp	July 26-30 GA Camp

June 14-16 Acteens Mini-Camp, Central Hills
 June 16-18 Acteens Mini-Camp, Central Hills
 June 28-30 Acteens Mini-Camp, Camp Garaywa

June 28-July 2 HeartSong '93, Gulfshore Assembly
 (Youth Music Conference)

July 9-13 Young Musicians Conference, Gulfshore Assembly
 July 26-30 Young Musicians Conference, Blue Mountain College

RA/HSBYM CAMP- CENTRAL HILLS

June 21-25	July 5-9	July 19-23
June 28-July 2	July 12-16	July 26-30

OTHER YOUTH MINISTRY EVENTS

July 26-30 SuperSummer, William Carey College, Hattiesburg
 July 30 Mississippi Baptist Youth Night, Memorial Stadium, Jackson

August 13-14 Disciple Youth Workshop; Brookhaven

Sept. 10-11 GA Mother/Daughter Weekend, Camp Garaywa

Sept. 15 See You at the Pole Event

Sept. 24-25 Baptist Student Union Convention; FBC, Jackson

Oct. 8-9 BYW/Bapt. Women Retreat; Camp Lake Stephens, Oxford

Oct. 18-20 Youth Ministers Workshop; Lake Tiak O'Khata, Louisville

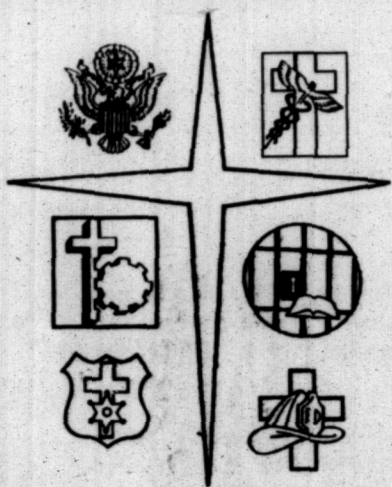
Nov. 7-13 RA Week

Nov. 13 GA/Acteen Day; Blue Mountain College

Dec. 27-28 Youth Evangelism Conference; Mississippi College, Clinton

MAY CHAPLAINS' EMPHASIS MONTH

In Mississippi, the following persons are endorsed by the Home Mission Board. Some serve as full-time career caregivers and others volunteer to be the presence of Christ.



LEON ADAMS, Meridian, Law Enforcement
TANYA ANDERSON, Columbus, Hospital
RAY BELL, Columbia, Juvenile Correctional
GARY BEMENT, Columbus AFB, Air Force
DANNY BERRY, Jackson, Hospital
JAMES BLACKWELL, Vicksburg, Hospital
DREW BLANTON, Laurel, Hospital
JOHN BOND, Columbus AFB, Air Force
JAMES BUSBY, Vicksburg, Law Enforcement
EDWARD CAMPBELL, Magnolia, Adult Correctional
ALAN CARDEN, Jackson, Hospital
JACKIE COOKE, Ruleville, Army National Guard
NORRIS CURRY, Washington, MS, Hospital
JOHN DENT, Newton, Air National Guard
THOMAS DICKSON, French Camp, Miscellaneous
GENERAL EDWARD DOWDY, Gulfport, Veterans Administration
LEON EMERY, Jackson, Civil Air Patrol
JACK FOLLIS, Meridian, Hospital
MARK FREDERICK, Fulton, Army Reserve
JIMMIE GARRARD, Petal, Law Enforcement
HAROLD GARRETT, Gulfport, Navy
GROVER GLENN, Bailey, Army National Guard
GRAHAM HALES, Hattiesburg, Hospital
TROY HARRISON, Tiptonville, MS, Army Reserve
LAVON HATTEN, Winona, Law Enforcement
JOHN HILBUN, Soso, Civil Air Patrol
EDMUND HOLMES, Biloxi, Veterans Administration
WILBUR IRWIN, Jackson, Veterans Administration
HAROLD JORDAN, Vicksburg, Miscellaneous
GENERAL THOMAS KILPATRICK, Mendenhall, Veterans Administration
BARBARA KIMBREL, Jackson, Hospital
EDGAR MCDANIEL, Ridgeland, Army Reserves

CLARK MCMURRAY, Pascagoula, Hospital
DAVID MILLICAN, McComb, Hospital
TAYLOR MORGAN, Columbus, Hospital
DON NERREN, Jackson, Hospital
GLEN ALAN NEWTON, Hernando, Army National Guard
HAROLD PALMER, Pascagoula, Navy
MICHAEL PERRY, Leakesville, Army National Guard
HUGH POOLE, Meridian, Hospital
JOSEPH RATCLIFF, Collins, Hospital
RANDALL RICH, Vicksburg, Fire Department
CHARLES ROOK, Louisville, Law Enforcement
DANNY RUPERT, Tupelo, Air Force Reserves
GLEN SCHILLING, Mendenhall, Hospital
ROBERT SHURDEN, Hattiesburg, Law Enforcement
JIMMY SMITH, Plantersville, Army Reserves
PAUL STEPHENSON, Jackson, Hospital
GEORGE STEVENS, Tupelo, Hospital
JOE STOVALL, Jackson, Hospital
JAMES STREET, Clinton, Army National Guard
EDWARD THOMPSON, New Albany, Army National Guard
LEO TIMMS, Duncan, Adult Correctional
M.L. TRAWICK, Meridian, Navy
JOHN VESS, Jackson, Hospital
WILLIAM WEBB, Meridian, Hospital
HOWARD R. WHITTINGTON, Meridian, Hospital
TIMOTHY WILLIAMS, Columbus, Air National Guard
GREGORY WINNINGHAM, Mendenhall, Army National Guard

Several suggestions are listed below to help your church participate in this recognition of these servants of Christ:

Promote Chaplaincy Ministries Month in May and consider these actions:

- Invite a chaplain to fill the pulpit during Chaplaincy Ministries Month.
- Visit endorsed Southern Baptist chaplains on site. Survey volunteer, part-time and full-time chaplaincy ministry needs in the church mission field and publicize widely the results.
- Meet with prospective using agencies and identify hospitals, institutions, businesses and industries willing to participate in a volunteer chaplaincy project.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:
Richard Brogan, Consultant, Cooperative Missions Department, MBCB. 968-3800, ext. 3961.

LIFESTYLE WITNESSING FOR WOMEN SEMINAR

Discover how to:

- Understand your identity in Christ
- Overcome barriers to witnessing
- Develop alertness to divine appointment
- Go "out of your way ... on your way"

May 13, 1993
Baptist Building
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Ley by June McKee

To register call Evangelism Department, 968-3800

Other available dates are:

July 22	September 16 & 23
August 12	October 21 & 28
	November 11

Article continued from front page

Jackson. Since she has accompanied me on nearly all of my interviews she knows about the Children's Village, the camps, the special projects like "Sunday Care." What she hadn't realized was her 15 cents helped make it all possible.

Finally we talk about how the Southern Baptist Convention uses the money. She is mostly interested in the ways missionaries use her 15 cents.

We brainstorm all the ways missionaries use Cooperative Program funds. She remembers the Foreign Mission Study at Woodlawn. The thought that her 15 cents may have helped feed a child withered by starvation, or medicated another too ill even to cry, or provides someone to tell them about Jesus—well, her exuberance is contagious.

"Mom, are you saying I'm like a hero? Oh Mom, (Susan has a flare for the dramatic) "I can't believe it! My tithe is like that, it kind of makes me a hero," she says. And I point out to her that the good feeling she feels in the knot in her throat and the tightness of her stomach is a blessing from the Lord.

"I'm going to tell Bro. (Gerald) Martin (our pastor) about it tonight," she says, "and all my GAs. They're heroes, too."

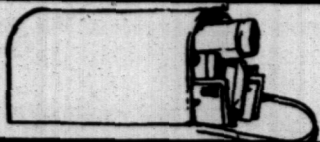
I think now, perhaps her original definition wasn't so far off—what we give through the Cooperative Program is not unlike the tide. I recall Ecclesiastes 11:1 which tells us to cast our bread upon the waters and expect it to return to us after many days. Susan's bread has returned to her in the form of a blessing.

And, that is what makes Susan Buie a Cooperative Program Champion and a pretty terrific kid too!

Susan is the daughter of CPT and Mrs. Gary R. Buie of Vicksburg. □



The Cooperative Program



Letters to the editor



Abortion alternative

Editor:

I am writing concerning the issue of abortion. I am personally against it! I believe what God said in the Bible about murder, and abortion is strictly murder. I can't see how any mother can kill an innocent child, a child who has the right to live in this world. Who has the right to say who should live or die? We don't! God is the only one who has the right to say that!

There are so many women out there who would love to have children and they can't. (My husband and I) would love to adopt.

I beg and plead with all of my heart, please stop the abortions. It is wrong.

To the woman who is thinking about abortion, there is a way out! Have the child put up for adoption and you will know how they turn out, what they look like, etc. Let them have a chance in life. Best of all, ask God to help you make the right choice. Think long and hard on this matter. My prayers are with you all! Let's stop this abortion.

Cindy Leach
Blue Springs

Hope in missions

Editor:

There is a saying: "When you look into the face of a newborn baby, it is God's opinion that the world should go on." It is a simple declaration, yet it flows with the hope and wonder that as long as

God keeps sending these miracles of nature, then there is truly something to look forward to, a reason why life should continue.

With this in mind, I thought back to my missionary appointment service when I watched as missionary candidates filed across the stage, a doctor to Venezuela, a dentist to Nigeria, a retired pastor to Korea, and I to Zimbabwe. I thought of our denomination struggling with the uncertainties of the future, severed by differences, groping for vision, and yet the faces of these who stood ready to go. Their abandonment to the cause of Christ almost haunted the congregation that sat before them. Could it be, Southern Baptists, that when we look into the face of a newly-appointed missionary, it is God's way of reminding us that our denomination should and must continue!

Our denomination stands at perhaps the greatest moment in our history and yet without clear direction, it can falter and lose ground that has taken centuries to gain. Abraham Lincoln, in his inaugural address, spoke of the "perpetuity of the union and against any legal right of a minority secession." He said, "It was the majority who should rule, and therefore there should be no hurry or hot haste but a patient confidence in the ultimate justice of the people."

He continued by saying, "I am loathe to close. We are not enemies, but friends. We must not be enemies. Though passion may

have strained, it must not break our bonds of affection."

Is this advice (also given) to another division, in the largest Protestant denomination in the world?

Southern Baptists have said to the world we believe in the integrity of Scripture. Now it is time to move forward. The leaders of our Convention may not be your choice, but as long as they lead in a way in keeping with Scripture, we must follow or risk eternal consequences. To those who at present battle for positions on boards and agencies, who are determined to see their own agendas and preferences furthered, I have but one question: "Is this for the sake of God's kingdom or for your own selfish political endeavors?" I am afraid we are forfeiting our greatest opportunities for a childish game of "tit for tat."

Jeffrey R. Parker, missionary
Zimbabwe

Cancels subscription

Editor:

After a long time receiving the Baptist Record, you have made it necessary for me to tell you to remove my name from your mailing list. You finally did what you have wanted to for years — endorsed interracial marriage.

Christ died for all, and every person's soul was included, but mixing of the races was not meant to be, and I can never accept that. Remove me from your mailing list.

Ralph Prestridge
Bogue Chitto

Editor's Note: This editor has never endorsed interracial marriage. The SBC's Home Mission Board appointed the couple; the BAPTIST RECORD reported it.

About Texas decision

Editor:

I am writing concerning the

April 15 article, "Texas CLC rejects restrictive revision of abortion statement." I was greatly disturbed that the Texas Baptist CLC did not uphold the motion by Roger Deerinwater to revise the CLC paper, "Abortion and the Christian Life." Deerinwater stated that abortion should only be considered to save the life of the mother, but not in cases of rape, incest, or severe retardation. The CLC, by rejecting this motion and allowing for abortion in the case of retardation, is saying that God made a mistake in forming the child in his/her mother's womb. As for rape and incest, I do not feel the unborn child should be punished for something he/she had no control over.

As for the statement by Cassandra Northcutt of First Church of Longview, her logic is irrational. Following her reasoning, if only men draft position statements "exclusively affecting" man and only women draft position statements "exclusively affecting" women, then who will draft statements on issues affecting the unborn child? Ms. Northcutt seems to have forgotten that abortion is not "exclusively" a woman's issue, but also an unborn child's issue. It is not a matter of a male trying to interfere in or dictate the life of a woman, but rather a human being trying to protect the life of another human being.

Carolyn Priest
Poplarville

CP still best way

Editor:

I read two religious papers quite often. One I subscribe to because it is my state Baptist paper; the other is The Sword of the Lord. For over 30 years I have been aware that the position of The Sword of the Lord is that all Baptists should separate themselves from the Southern Baptist Convention.

Now there arises a group that calls themselves "The Cooperative

Baptist Fellowship." They, too, urge Southern Baptist churches to quit the Cooperative Program and designate their gifts preferably through them to specific causes. Their reasoning is that there are people who have been elected that they don't agree with. Also, the Convention by a majority vote has turned to the quote "conservative/fundamentalist" viewpoint.

The question that I ask myself and anyone who would listen is: What is the difference in the positions of these two groups? The answer is: There is no difference! Both of these positions are trying to destroy the method by which we Southern Baptists have been led by God to carry out our mission of proclaiming the gospel to all the world.

Now as to the ethics of the two groups, there is a vast difference. The Sword of the Lord group is made up of people who have never been part of the convention or who have had the honesty to pull out of the Convention.

On the other hand, "The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship" ethics are suspect. Their founders and current leaders, and I speak specifically of Duke McCall, Grady Cothen, Darrell Morgan, and Keith Parks, all spent the majority of their ministry living off the Cooperative Program.

All of these men were paid substantial salaries through the Cooperative Program. I heard or read where each of these men have appealed to the pastors to go back to the churches and lead them to increase their giving through the Cooperative Program.

Now I wonder what has changed, except the elected leadership of the Convention. That is the only change I see. The world still needs the gospel. The Cooperative Program is still the best way for the Southern Baptist Convention to do this.

James R. Walker
Pheba

WHY DO I LOVE AND APPRECIATE WMU?

Because from age 4 until today WMU has burned in my heart the awareness of lost people—world wide!

WMU taught me to CARE, STUDY, PRAY, GIVE, AND GO...

WMU has been our conscience for fulfilling the **GREAT COMMISSION**—and many said, "Here am I, Lord, send me!"

For 16 years, as leader of Mississippi Baptists, I saw WMU serve as the missions' nerve center for our churches and our denomination.

And, I watched WMU gather \$64,000,000 for world missions!

HOW CAN WE **NOT** SUPPORT WMU?

I pray that you will join my wife, Marjorie, and me in grateful affirmation!

We wholeheartedly and gratefully endorse WMU, its authenticity and significance for the worldwide cause of Christ. WMU is a Christ-centered force in Southern Baptist life that clings to our forebears' zeal and commitment to world missions.

Now, more than ever, is the time for cooperation for the cause of Christ: cooperation between clergy and laity, men and women, small church and large church.

—Earl Kelly, Executive Director Emeritus, MBCB

If you would like to endorse this tribute as a friend of the WMU, please print the following:

Last Name	Middle Initial/Name	First Name
Street Address		
City	State	Zip

Please forward your church's tributes promptly to:

Dr. Earl Kelly, 5316 Red Fox Road, Jackson, MS 39211

All tributes received by June 1 will be included in the great number of other tributes that will be delivered to the Woman's Missionary Union immediately preceding their June 12 Executive Board meeting at Houston.

4 Great Concerts In Mississippi With TRUTH

Laurel

May 18

First Baptist
of Sharon

Greenwood

May 21

North Greenwood
Baptist Church

For Further
Information
Call

428-5319
in Laurel

939-6282
in Brandon

453-2801
in Greenwood

483-4591
in Meridian

Brandon

May 19

Park Place
Baptist Church

Meridian

May 27

1st Assembly
of God

Just for the Record



Sherman Church, Sherman, recently held an Acteen/GA recognition service. The theme was "Called and Accountable." GAs, pictured, receiving awards are Jama Walker, Amanda Campbell, Amanda Burcham, Allison Moore, and Jennifer Horton. Acteens, also pictured, are Krystal Sanders, April Coker, and Amy Tate. Nancy Bruce is Acteen leader.



Walnut Grove Church, Leake Association, exceeded its goal of \$1,250 for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions with a final total of \$1,400.70. John H. Pace Jr. is pastor.

Belle Fountain Church, Ocean Springs, held a "Heath Perry Benefit" on May 1. Heath is a three-year-old Down's Syndrome child with a heart defect. The benefit consisted of a meal, arts and crafts, and a bake sale.

Centreville Church, Mississippi Association, reached and surpassed its goal for Annie Armstrong Offering for Home Missions. The goal was \$2,500 and the church received \$3,000. Don H. Stewart is interim pastor.

Stanton Church, Natchez, has passed a resolution opposing abortion and homosexual activities. The church stated it to be against the teaching of the Bible and an abomination in the sight of God. Steve Purvis is pastor.

Cherry Creek celebrates its 150th year

Cherry Creek Church, Ecru, will celebrate its 150th anniversary May 16.

The church was begun in 1843, and has been the parent to four other congregations. A church history has been prepared for the anniversary celebration by Hazel Boss Neet.



Kelly Charles Pitts, former president of Dallas Baptist University, will be the featured speaker at the 10 a.m. worship service. Earl Kelly, executive director-treasurer emeritus, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, will speak at the 11 a.m. service. Dinner on the grounds will be served, followed by a 1:30 p.m. service in which former pastors and their families will be honored.

Revival services, 7 p.m. nightly, Sunday through Friday, will feature six men who have been called out from Cherry Creek: Reed Caldwell, Jimmy Russell, Tommy Miller, Glen Reeder, Greg Herndon, and Chuck Shumaker. Danny McGee will be music leader. James A. Lewis is pastor.



General Assembly

May 13, 14, 15, 1993

Birmingham-Jefferson Civic Center
Birmingham, Alabama



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reservations for van and car rentals

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Furnishings &
Pew Upholstery

Box 501, Fulton, MS. 38843
In MS. Toll Free 1-800-624-9627

We remodel & paint

CHURCH

From page 1

the church will be listed in IRS Publication 78 which provides formal notice of exemption.

A church seeking or anticipating a large donation or gift might find it desirable to have a formal notice from the IRS. Moreover, some experts counsel churches with wide ranging and extensive ministries to obtain a formal letter of determination in order to preclude any questions arising about the exempt character of its activities.

There are two potential disadvantages to obtaining the formal status. First, the process involves some degree of paper work and may simply not be worth the trouble. Secondly, some suggest that

requesting a formal letter of determination only invites federal oversight.

Tax exempt status is accorded all churches, but unrelated business income is excluded from tax exemption. At the same time, there are certain activities prohibited for tax exempt organizations, such as not operating "exclusively" for religious purposes, "inurement to the benefit of private individuals," and excessive participation in political and other prohibited activities.

The Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission (CAC) has prepared a pamphlet, "What the Church Can and Cannot Do," which is available from CAC, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800.

Jones is executive director, CAC.

15 PASSENGER CHURCH VANS

We have the largest selection of 15 passenger church vans in Mississippi - new and used.

DUB HERRING FORD-LINCOLN-MERCURY
DUB HERRING CHRYSLER-PLYMOUTH-DODGE

We rent vans by the day, week or month.

Call the Hotline 1-800-776-5497

Ask for **DONNIE COUNTS**-Fleet Manager, or write to
600 Hwy. 11 South, Piquayune, MS 39466

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RATE: 50 cents per word, \$5 minimum. Cash with order except on contract advertising. Include name, address, zip code, and phone number in word count. No blind ads.

BIG TOP GOSPEL TENTS, all sizes. Open Air Ministries. (318) 939-2239.

THE COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH in Columbus, Miss., is presently looking for a part time minister of music and youth. Any individual who is interested should mail a resume to: Community Baptist Church, Search Committee Chairman, 2490 Yorkville Road East, Columbus, MS 39702 or they may call 327-5306 or 328-2105.

CHURCH BUS: 41 passenger—40,000 miles. Twin A.C. Top condition. Reasonably priced. Call (205) 626-5377.

CHURCH PEW CUSHIONS: Manufactured in our plant. For free estimate contact — Emmons Brothers, P.O. Box 186, Meridian, Miss. 39301. Since 1899. Phone (601) 693-4451.

SAVE! FOR \$29 see the Great Passion Play & stay at Keller's Country Dorm Resort for Groups (12 or more) in Eureka Springs, Ark. Lodging (now with more showers!), \$10.50 Tickets, and meals **ALL INCLUDED!** Call (501) 253-8418 today!

WESTVIEW BAPTIST, Jackson, will take applications for church nursery worker Monday, May 10, 2 to 4:30 p.m. Worker hours are

Sunday 9:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., 5:45 to 7:15 p.m., Wednesday 6:45 to 9 p.m. Salary as per experienced. Looking for mature, caring Christian. Westview is located at the corner of Raymond and Old McDowell Roads, one block south of Methodist Hospital. Call (601) 372-8208 for directions. No applications by phone.

PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS in Residential Treatment: Children's Agency is seeking married couples to deliver professional residential services to troubled youth. Applicants must be at least 21 years old and have a bachelor's degree from an accredited university. Comprehensive training and support program provided. Excellent benefits. Call (601) 353-4715.

***OLD ORIENTAL RUGS** wanted. Call 1-800-527-0861.

POSITION AVAILABLE: Minister of Music/Education, full graded choir program; average 250 in Sunday School, send confidential resume to: Search Committee, First Baptist Church, 700 Bayou Drive, Tallulah, Louisiana 71282.

PASTOR'S SECRETARY, Northminster Baptist Church. Computer skills required. Send resume to Northminster Baptist Church, Personnel Committee, 3955 Ridgewood Rd., Jackson, MS 39211.

Staff Changes

Harry (Buddy) Barnes has resigned as pastor of Spring Hill Church, Copiah County, effective May 2.

Calvary Church, Jackson, has called Jan Halford of Jackson as minister of youth and senior adults effective April 1. She received her education at Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary. Her previous place of service was Elkdale Church, Selma, Ala.

John Arthur Temple of Cullman, Ala., has been named pastor of First Church, Madison, and assumed his new position on May 1. Temple, 41, was previously pas-

tor of Seventh Street Church, Cullman, Ala. A native of Starkville, he attended Mississippi State University; Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky.; and New Orleans Seminary.

Doug Hubbard has recently become the new youth and music minister at Morgantown Church, Natchez. His previous place of service was Barton Church, Lucedale. His first Sunday at Natchez was May 2.

Centreville Church (Mississippi) has called Don H. Stewart of New Orleans Seminary to serve a second time as interim pastor. He assumed his weekend responsibilities at the church on March 28. He was chairman of the Department of Religion and Philosophy at William Carey College before moving to the seminary.

Thursday, May 6, 1993

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 9

Names in the News

James Gilbert, retired missionary, has joined the Foreign Mission Board's Missionary Enlistment Department for a few months. Between now and September, Gilbert will travel throughout Mississippi urging pastors to consider becoming foreign missionaries. He and his wife, Dottie, are retired missionaries to Panama. Gilbert's address is 204 Corinth Dr., Bay St. Louis, MS 39520. He can be reached by telephone at 466-5785.



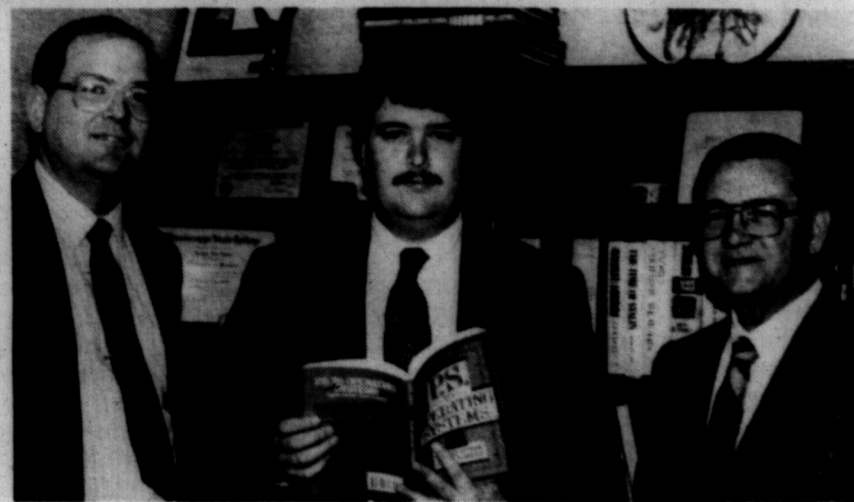
Gilbert

Charles M. Ball has recently returned to Mississippi and is now living in Leakesville. He is available for interim, pastorate, evangelism, or bivocational church. He may be contacted at 394-2535.

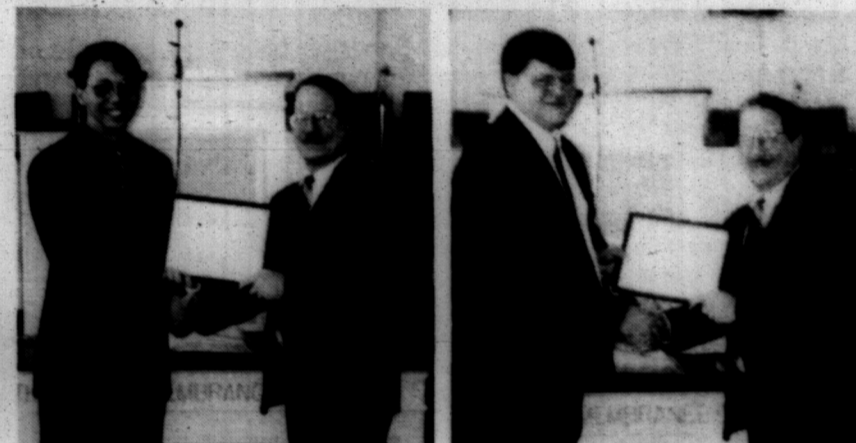
Roger Ivey, recently ordained at Knights Valley Church, Clarke Association, is available for pulpit supply and revivals. Contact him at (601) 787-3634.



Kevin Earnest, left, receives his certificate of license from Gene Henderson, pastor of First Church, Brandon. Earnest is a music major at William Carey College and is presently serving as music director at Line Creek Church. His parents are Farley and Billie Earnest.



Craig Lowery, (middle), assistant professor of mathematics and computer science at Mississippi College, has co-authored a book entitled, *A P.S. to Operating Systems*, with Larry Dowdy of Vanderbilt University. Lowery is pictured with Tommy Leavelle, (left), associate professor and head of the Department of Mathematics and Computing Science, and Glen Eaves, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.



New Palestine Church, Picayune, recently licensed two brothers to the gospel ministry. Edison Williams III, (left picture), and Jeremy Williams, (right picture), both of Picayune and sons of Edison Williams Jr. and Cathy Williams of Picayune, received their licenses from Grover Glenn, pastor. They are students at William Carey College, Edison is a senior and Jeremy a freshman, and plan to enter New Orleans Seminary. They are available for supply work and can be reached at 798-7573.

Revival Dates

Dumas (Tippah): May 6-9; Thurs.-Sat., 7 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Sunday School revival with Leon Kilbreth, Herrin, Ill.; Gerald and Cindy Simmons, Gulfport, music; Mike

Smith, pastor.

Thrasher, Booneville: May 9-14; Sunday, 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. nightly; Charles E. Smith Jr., new pastor of Thrasher Church, evangelist.

Belle Fountain, Ocean Springs: May 9-14; Sunday, 10:45 a.m. and 6 p.m.; weekdays, 7 p.m.; Jerry E. Oswalt, vice president for academic affairs and professor of preaching, Florida Baptist Theological College, Graceville, evangelist; Billy Ready, Thomaston, Ga., music; David R. Grayson, pastor.

First, Rose Hill: May 7-12; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; other nights, 7 p.m.; Danny Lanier, Little Rock, and Larry Duncan, Walnut Grove, evangelists; The Duncan Sisters, Walnut Grove, music; Keith Bogan, pastor.

Michael Memorial, Gulfport: May 10-13; Melvin Mordecai, Meadowview, Starkville, evangelist; Ed Keys, Cottage Hill, Mobile, music; services, 6:45 p.m., mini concerts nightly; Craig Conner, pastor.

Woodville Heights Announces Pastor's Retirement



Dr. and Mrs. Hueston Adkins

A Reception Honoring Dr. Adkins and Amie will be hosted by the church. All former church and staff members, relatives and friends are invited.

Sunday, May 16, 1993, 2:00 - 4:00 P. M.

in the Family Life Center

1109 Cooper Road, Jackson, MS.

Quotes worth quoting

Nearly 600 people were asked: "What is the greatest word in the world?" Four hundred twenty-two said, "Mother;" 122 said, "Home."

And little Johnny defined love as when there is only one piece of chocolate pie left, and Mom's not hungry.

"When I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also" (2 Tim. 1:5).

"If I were damned of body and soul,
I know whose prayers would make me whole.
Mother o' mine, O mother o' mine." — Rudyard Kipling

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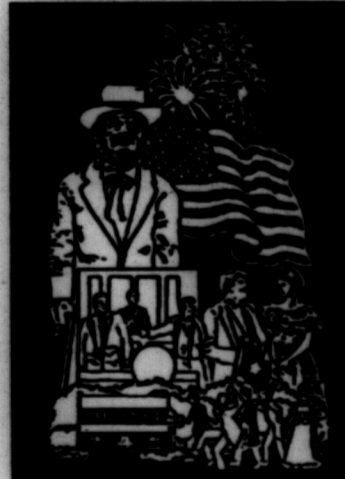
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Uniform Finding Christ



By Chuck Pourciau
John 1:35-51

I'll never forget the time my wife informed me that she was pregnant with our first child. Not only was this our first child, but she was also the first grandchild for both sets of grandparents. I was in school at Mississippi College at the time and our parents lived in Baton Rouge, but we were not about to break this wonderful news over the telephone. We suffered until Friday and made the three-hour trip home in great anticipation of breaking the good news.

In this passage, we find three men eager to share the good news of Jesus with family and friends.

John the Baptist pointed his disciples to Jesus (vv. 35-39). These followers of John respected him greatly, and I'm sure they had developed a close relationship. Yet John did not hesitate to point them to Jesus. Because of their great respect for him, these disciples immediately left him to follow Jesus.

Most of you who read this lesson are Sunday School teachers and are looked up to by many in your church. As leaders we must always be certain that, as our students look up to us, we divert their gaze to the Lord. It is human nature to seek admiration. It is Christian nature to seek that only for the Lord.

Andrew brought his brother, Simon, to Jesus (vv. 40-42). Andrew was one of the two who had followed Jesus based on the testimony of John the Baptist. John recorded that the first thing Andrew did was find Simon and tell him about Jesus. Andrew was closest to his own family members, so it was to his family that he first carried the news of the Messiah. And he didn't wait around for the right time. It was the first thing he did.

Christians often find family members the most difficult of all people to talk to about the Lord. Since we love our family members so much, the first thing we should do is tell them about Jesus.

Also, Jesus renamed Simon when he encountered him. This new name would be a description of his Christian character. When we come to Jesus, he immediately changes our character. Holy Spirit rehabilitation is the only rehabilitation that lasts.

Jesus called Philip to follow him (vv. 43-44). Jesus next encountered Philip and called on him to "follow me." It is amazing how Jesus summed up the beginning of the Christian pilgrimage with those two words. William Hull wrote, "Christianity is not a place to stand but a road to walk in choice companionship with the 'leader' of life." Following Jesus is a summation of the demands of the Christian life. In whatever situation man finds himself the demand is the same: follow Jesus.

Philip led Nathanael to faith in Christ (vv. 45-49). When Philip told Nathanael that he had found the one written about in the Law and the Prophets, Nathanael responded with skepticism. Philip simply said, "Come and see." We can learn two lessons from the first part of this encounter. First, the gospel is such incredible news that it is natural for it to be met with skepticism. Second, we must not allow skepticism to deter us from continuing to invite the skeptic to experience Jesus.

The skeptic went along with Philip and was shocked by the perception of Jesus. Jesus told him things he should not have known. This interaction brought a startling confession from the lips of Nathanael: "Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel." Just as Jesus knew Nathanael he knows our every desire and need. He not only knows them. He wants to meet them.

Jesus promised that even greater things were to come (vv. 50-51). Nathanael was astonished by his first encounter with Jesus, but Jesus informed him that the best was yet to come. The day a sinner comes to Christ is incredible and one never to be forgotten. But to quote the words of a famous hymn: "Every day with Jesus is sweeter than the day before."

John the Baptist led Andrew to Jesus. Andrew led Simon to the Lord. Jesus called Philip to follow him. Philip brought Nathanael to the Savior. We may win someone who will win someone else who will win thousands. Keep leading others to Jesus. One may turn into a thousand.

Pourciau is pastor, First Church, Louisville.

Bible Book Divine wisdom, human folly



By Guy A. Hughes
Isaiah 28, 30, 32

Every year a group of famous men, all members of an exclusive gentlemen's club in California, get together for an elaborate lakeside ritual called "The Cremation of Care." The Wall Street Journal reported one man as saying that the ceremony is intended to symbolize "that whatever our problems, our pressures, our anxieties in the real world, this is a special time, a time to go away and invite a different range of emotions and feelings." An effigy of Care is burned and a band plays "Hot Time in the Old Town Tonight." Every effort is made to escape all feelings of anxiety. But after the weekend is over, the worries always return. The same old stress pattern is in effect again because the underlying problems are still there. God's wisdom, contrasted with human folly, teaches that God should be consulted and followed in every decision that people make.

Judgment on the ruler's covenant with death (28:14-15). Sargon II, king of Assyria, died about 705 B.C. and smaller states began to rebel against Assyrian domination. Judah, under the leadership of King Hezekiah, participated in the revolt and sought to enlist the aid of Egypt. Isaiah was furious. He felt Judah was to trust in God's power, not the might of a pagan nation like Egypt. Isaiah called this treaty "a covenant with death" and told Judah "with hell are we at agreement." Therefore, God would discipline them by using Assyria to bring judgment upon Judah.

Judgment against Judah's alliance with Egypt (30:1-3). God's people have often rebelled against his leadership. Like stubborn children, God had no choice but to punish them (Deut. 21:18-21). The term "take counsel" refers to the calling for help in times of trouble. In their moment of need, Judah took matters into their own hands, rather than seeking the counsel of God. By seeking a political alliance with Egypt they were doubting God's ability to care for them. Had they so soon forgotten the Israelites' bondage in Egypt? Had they forgotten that God warned them not to make alliances with Egypt (Deut. 17:16)?

Judgment of Judah's refusal to rely on God (30:13-15). The collapse of the wall mentioned in verse 13 was a common event. Walls around the cities were made of stone and, like the ancient city of Jericho, relied on them for security. Bad weather and military assaults often weakened the walls and they would break. Slowly the cracks would widen until one day the entire wall would fall. Unless the wall were maintained properly the city would be left unsecured. The analogy in verse 14 was of a potter smashing a piece of pottery. A flaw in the vessel would result in its destruction. Judah's refusal to rely on God would cause their destruction like a fallen wall or smashed piece of pottery. Their only hope was true repentance.

Results of noble leadership (32:1-4). In spite of Judah's impending disaster, Isaiah saw the promise of a bright future for the nation. A king who would reign in righteousness would rule in judgment. Isaiah does not identify this king by name. Surely, Jesus was the ultimate fulfillment of this prophecy. His leadership would be noble and righteous contrary to the folly of some human leaders.

A story is told of a child who had to walk each evening past a dark, spooky house. Some adults sought to give him courage. One handed him a good luck charm to ward off the ghosts. Another had a light put on the dreaded corner. Still another said earnestly, "It is sinful to be afraid. Trust God and be brave!"

The advice was good, but he offered nothing more. Then someone said with compassion, "I know what it is to be afraid. I will walk with you past the house." He did nothing to remove the fear — except to lift it from the child's shoulders and place it on his own.

Is that not what our noble Jesus has done for us?

Hughes is pastor, Friendship Church, Grenada.

Life and Work Challenges for the church



By Laura Russell
Acts 4:32, 34-35; 6:1-5, 7a

In the previous lessons in this series, all things were moving in a most exalted atmosphere for the Jerusalem church. There were great thoughts of God; there were prayers for the Holy Spirit; there were quotations from the Old Testament. Then, without warning, the whole narrative changes to practical matters. However exalted these early Christians might be, however much they had their moments on the heights, they never forgot that someone was hungry, that someone didn't have enough and that all must help.

Harmony in the Jerusalem church (4:32, 34-35). The early church was able to share possessions and property as a result of unity brought by the Holy Spirit working in the believers' lives. None of these Christians felt that what they had was their own, so that enabled them to give and share, eliminating poverty among them. They would not let a brother or a sister suffer when others had plenty. This early church had an intense sense of responsibility for each other. It seemed to them unthinkable that any one of them could have too much while another had too little. This awoke a real desire to share all they had. This sharing was utterly spontaneous. It is not when we are required to share, but in our willingness to share, that we portray Christlike characteristics.

The complaint of the Hellenistic widows (6:1). When we read the descriptions of the early church — the miracles, the sharing and generosity — we may wish we could have been part of this "perfect" church. In reality, they had problems just as we do today. The Greek-speaking Christians complained that their widows were being treated unfairly. This was probably not intentional, but caused by a language barrier, because the Hellenists, or Greek-speaking Christians, were probably Jews from other lands who were converted at Pentecost.

The response of the twelve (6:2-4). To correct the situation, the apostles put seven respected Greek-speaking men in charge of the food distribution program. This allowed the apostles to keep their focus on teaching and preaching the good news about Jesus. The administrative task was not taken lightly. The requirements of the men were: to be of good standing, be honest, be full of the Holy Spirit, and be wise. The church at large selected the seven men, but the apostles approved the selection and appointed them to their office. The apostles' priorities were correct. The ministry of the Word should never be neglected because of administrative burdens. The work of the church should be spread among its members.

The decision of the church (6:5). After reviewing what each of the applicants said, the church was pleased, and they chose their seven men. The men chosen to help manage the food distribution were chosen for their integrity and sensitivity to God. One of the seven was a man named Stephen who is described as "full of faith and the Holy Spirit." Spiritual leadership is serious business and must not be taken lightly by the church or its leaders.

The result in the church (6:7a). Jesus had told the apostles that they were to witness first in Jerusalem (1:8). In a short time, their message had infiltrated the entire city and all levels of society. The Word of God spread like ripples on a pond, each wave touching the next, spreading wider and farther. The gospel still spreads in the same way today. You don't have to spread the Word single-handedly — just be a part of the wave, touching those around you, who in turn will touch others until all have felt the movement.

A church that maintains its harmony is also able to maintain its focus on reaching the lost. Today, people outside the faith are highly impressed when they see a spirit of harmony rather than discord in a Christian fellowship. Most often this kind of witness verifies the validity of the Christian faith to outsiders more quickly than teaching or preaching.

Russell is a member of First Church, Brandon.

THE VILLAGE VIEW



The Baptist Children's Village

Ronny E. Robinson, Executive Director

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Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

Feb. 1, 1993 -
Feb. 31, 1993

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Mrs. Opal H. Green
Mr. E.E. Barker
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Harper
Mrs. Lillian Barnes
Mrs. W.C. Ferrell
Mrs. Rinnie Mae Barnett
Mr. and Mrs. C.O. Kynard
Mr. William A. Bartlow

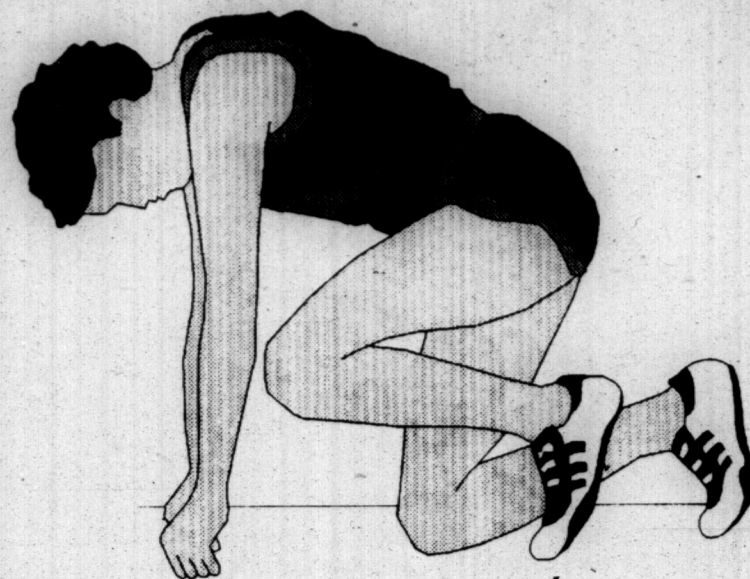
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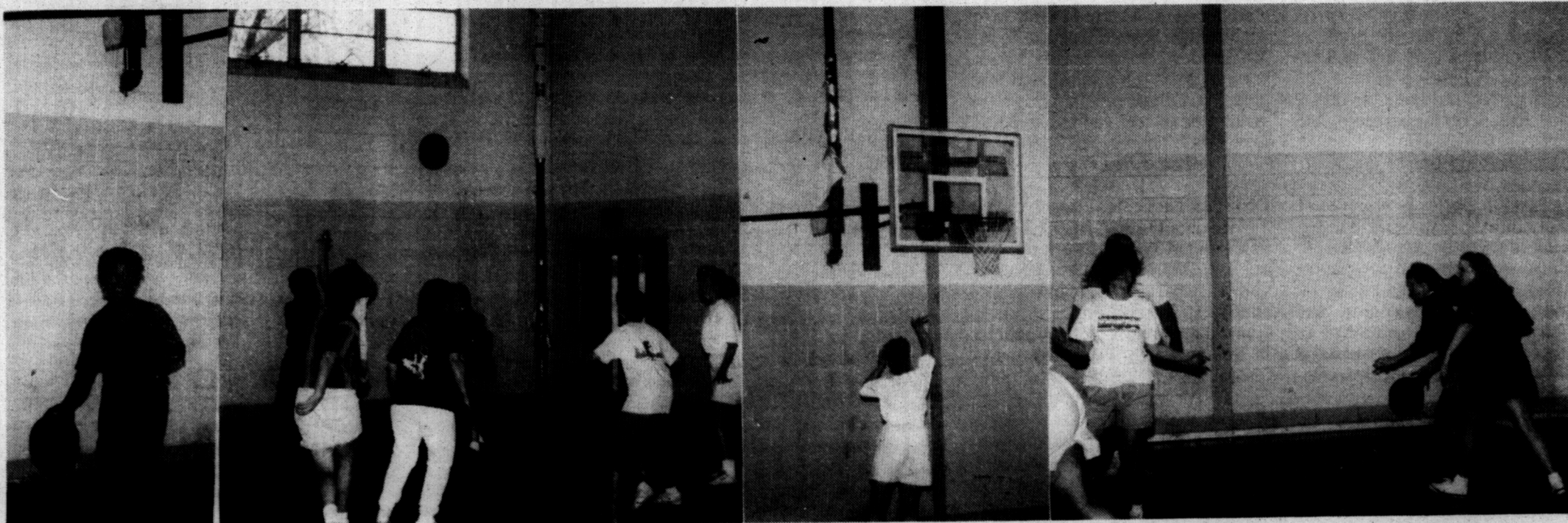
(to be continued)

Finish Line

1993 Easter Goal \$100,000



We are running the race, but are far from the finish line.
Easter total as of 4/28/93 is \$83,356.98.



Basketball
Challengers
Victorious

Village young people enjoy a fun game of basketball with BCV staff.



Better luck next time GUYS!!!



Pen Pal Club

Dear Pen Pal Club:

Hi! My name is Jill Grubbs. I am in the 2nd grade. My birthday is July 29. I am 7 years old. I go to North Pontotoc School. I am a Christian, and I go to Friendship Baptist Church. My hobbies are playing baby dolls, writing letters, watching TV, and riding my bike. If you would like to be my pen pal, my address is Rt. 1, Box 391, Ecu, MS 38841.

Jill Grubbs

Dear Pen Pal Club:

Hi! I am Erin Phillips. I am 10, 11 on June 20. I am a Christian and go to Harmony Baptist Church. I am in the 4th grade at C.S. Elementary. My hobbies are watching TV, riding bikes, and drawing. My address is 2047 Henry Rd., Crystal Springs, MS 39059.

Erin Phillips

Dear Pen Pal Club:

My name is Kimberly Martin. I'm 12 and in the 6th grade. My hobbies are talking on the phone, reading, collecting stickers, singing, dancing, swimming, and writing letters. I would love to have pen pals. You can write me at 106 Briarhill Rd, Apt. D-3, Florence, MS 39073.

Kimberly Martin

Dear Pen Pal Club:

My name is Kimberly Lucas. I am a member of Pleasant Hill Baptist Church in Quitman. My hobby is writing. I'm 8 years old. If you would like a pen pal, please write to me at this address: Rt. 3, Box 106B, Quitman, MS 39355.

Kimberly Nicole Lucas

Dear Pen Pal Club:

Hi! My name is Angela Spence. I am 12 years old and I am a member of First Baptist Church in Winona. My hobbies are playing basketball, softball, drawing, and playing Nintendo. I have two pet Parakeet birds. Their names are Buddy and Kay. If you would like to be my pen pal, please write to me at this address: 503 Church St., Winona, MS 38967.

Angela Spence

Dear Pen Pal Club:

Hi! My name is Janice Moody and I'm 14 years old. My birthday was April 17. I go to Pontotoc Junior High School, and I'm in the 7th grade. I enjoy riding bikes, sewing, and swimming. I also love pets. I will take either boys' or girls' letters. My address is Rt. 7, Box 316G, Tupelo, MS 38801.

Janice Moody

Dear Pen Pal Club:

My name is A.J. Napp. I am 8 years old. I would like a pen pal my age. My hobbies are baseball and baseball card collecting. I attend Mt. Vernon Baptist Church. I am home schooled. My address is Rt. 3, Box 336, Newton, MS 39345.

A.J. Napp

Dear Pen Pal Club:

Hi! My name is Wendy Michelle Frobers. I am 12 years old and in the 6th grade. My hobbies are playing Sega Genis, swimming, and skating. My birthday is March 1. I want a pen pal. Write me at Rt. 1, Box 64, Hickory, MS 39332. Smile cause Jesus loves you!!

Wendy Michelle Frobers

CHILDREN'S PAGE

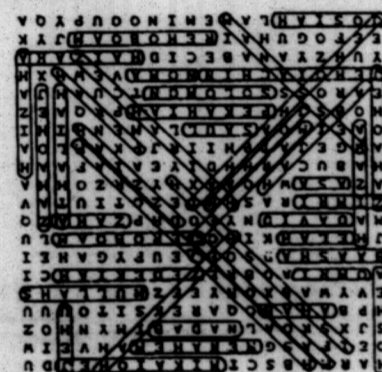
HEBREW KINGS

This puzzle hides the names of all the kings of the Hebrews from Saul, the first king, to Zedekiah, the last king of the kingdom of Judah. It includes the less familiar name of Ishbosheth, a son of Saul, who was king for a short time before David gained control of all the tribes. (* Names appear twice in puzzle.)

H A R M H B S C T M I K A I O H E J D U
O E I F A S G M E N A H E M A H V E I W
S J X S K O A L N A D A B I M Y N H O Z
H P B A H A B O Q A R E K S I T O U U U
E V Y W A B X O H Y E E Z M U L L A H S
A O M R I A O B R E Z E D E K I A H C I
B A A S H A D S O E J E U F Y G A H E I
J H E L A H K I H O J E R O B O A M L U
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O A E I M O A S A U L L A M E N H I H I
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E E F O G U H A I R E H O B O A M J Y K
J O S I A H L A M E M I N O O U P Y Q A

SAUL
ISHBOSHETH
DAVID
SOLOMON
REHOBAM
ABIJAH
ASA
JEHOSHAPHAT
*JEHORAM
*AHAZIAH
UZZIAH
ZECHARIAH
SHALLUM
MENAHEM
PEKAHIAH
PEKAH
HOSHEA
JEHOIAKIM
ZEDEKIAH

*JEROBOAM
NADAB
BAASHA
ELAH
OMRI
AHAB
ZIMRI
JEHU
ATHALIAH
JEHOASH
JOTHAM
AHAZ
HEZEKIAH
MANASSEH
AMON
JOSIAH
*JEHOAHZ
JEHOIACHIN



Source: *Bible Hidden Word Puzzles* (Zondervan Publishing House, 1992).

Available at local Christian bookstores or by calling 1-800-727-3480.

Mr. Rogers' neighbor suggests turning off the television

By Sarah Zimmerman

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — While Fred Rogers uses television to remind children they are special, the associate producer of "Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood" says children are better off playing than watching TV.

Turning the TV off is one way Hedda Sharapan recommends to monitor television exposure. Sharapan spoke April 22 to a conference on "Children and the Church" directed by the Greens Center for Christian Family Ministry at Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky., and co-sponsored by seven other Baptist entities. Rogers, she said, shares the opinion that too much TV is detrimental for children.

Families can establish rules such as no television before dinner or no television after dinner or no television on certain days, Sharapan said. In most households, the TV is on seven hours a day, she noted. Turning it off may be difficult, but she said, "It's an addiction, and you have to live with withdrawals."

When children watch TV, Sharapan suggested adults watch to get

"a window to their world." Watching the same program helps adults talk to children with images they will understand, she said.

While watching TV together, adults can teach their values by making comments such as, "I can't believe that character was so rude to her mother" or suggesting that children look for the helpers during news programs.

Television is often called "happy violence" because results of the behavior are not portrayed, Sharapan said. Children who see violence without consequences can become immune to terror, she said.

Children also learn greed and commercialism from television, Sharapan said. "The business of commercial television is not to produce a program for an audience but to produce an audience for a sponsor to sell a product," she said.

Too much TV is also threatening because it presents stereotypes, Sharapan said. For example, if all a person knew about drinking beer was what he learned from TV, he would believe that beer drinkers are always happy, have lots of friends, and never gain weight.

"Television is not a window to the world," Sharapan said. "It is a story telling machine that happens to be telling the same story."

Zimmerman writes for HMB.



Children of Sunflower Church, under the direction of Darlene Bradshaw, raised \$300.25 for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for home missions. Their month-long project was a "Country Store," pictured above. Mission Friends leaders are Teri Manning and Alicia Smith.

Baptist Record

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May 6, 1993

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